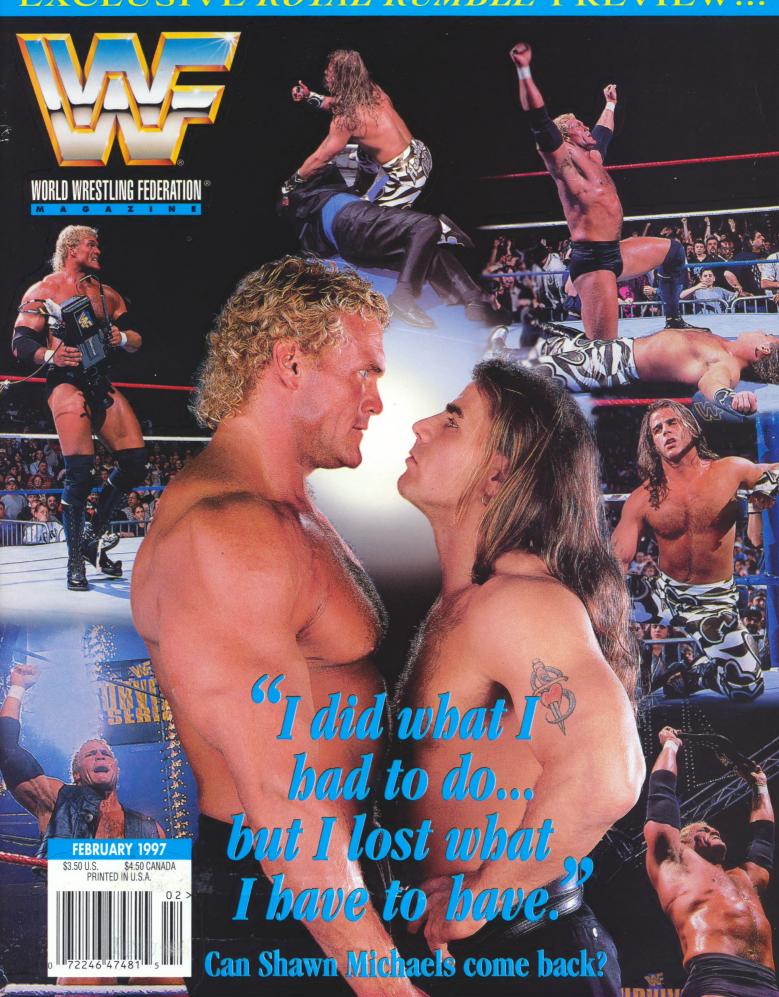
EXCLUSIVE ROYAL RUMBLE PREVIEW!!!



THEY RE COMING!!!



WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

Find out more in future issues of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine!!!





VOL. 16 NO. 2

SENIE I

FEATURES

- THE WILDMAN BOUNCES BACK!

 Part II of Our Exclusive Beneath The Skin Interview
- WAS SHAWN'S LOSS...
 HIS BIGGEST WIN?

Will The "Old" Heartbreak Kid Return?

- The CRYIN' KING

 The Life & Times of Jerry "The King" Lawler
- BOMB BIRTHDAY CALENDAY
- TAKING A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE!!!

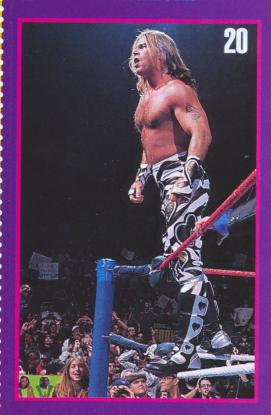
Exclusive Survivor Series Results

- WHO WILL BE ROYAL IN THE RUMBLE?

 Royal Rumble Preview
- CAN FEDERATION NEWCOMERS MAKE THE GRADE? PART II

Who Will Pass... And Who Will Fail?

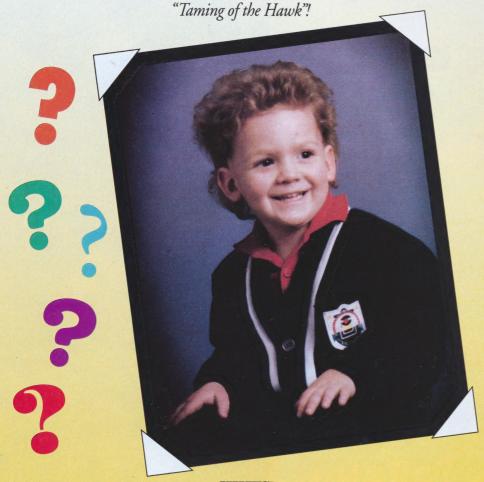
- **2** SECRET SUPERSTAR
- **3** FEDERATION FANATICS
- **4** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- **ROOKIES TO LEGENDS**
- **8** THE BITE
- 10 TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE



- **59** BARRED FROM THE BACK
- **60** PIN 'EM DOWN
- **62** PRIVATE EYE
- **64** SCOOP SULLIVAN

World Wrestling Federation Magazine

This Month's Secret Superstar's greatest accomplishment thus far in the World Wrestling Federation has been the



HINTS:

- 1. Jim Ross shares a few things in common with this Month's Secret Superstar they are both native Oklahomans and Sooners football fans!
- 2. This Month's Secret Superstar's hometown—Bowlegs, Oklahoma—is so small that the favorite pastime is chasing tumbleweed down the street!
- **3.** If you can think of the one man in the World Wrestling Federation with THREE first names, then you will figure out who this Month's Secret Superstar is!
- 4. After watching the paint peel off his house for so many years, this Month's Secret Superstar decided to leave the prairie and cross paths with the World Wrestling Federation!

THE SECRET SUPERSTAR IS:

ANSWER ON PAGE 64



Editor-in-Chief Vince Russo

Technical Advisor Howard Finkel

Creative Director Daniel Cultice

Production Manager Brad Sagendorf

> **Copy Editor** Janet Simms

Field Editor Keith Elliot Greenberg

Staff Photographer Tom Buchanan

Senior Photo Editor Nogh Wilker

Vice President, Sales James A. Rothschild

Advertising Director Craig Cassanelli

Account Development Coordinator Lisa Fox

> 1241 East Main Street Stamford, CT 06902 (203) 352-8600

VOL. 16 NO. 2

World Wrestling Federation Magazine, The Official Publication of the World Wrestling Federation (ISSN 8756-7792. USPS 720-450) is published monthly by TitanSports, Inc., 1241 East Main Street, Standford, CT 06902, and published in Canada by Titan Promotions Inc. (GST No. R121896385), 2 Lansing Square, Suite SO2, Willowdole, Ontario, Canada M24 PB. Basic subscription rates are \$24 for 12 issues and \$35 for 24 issues for U.S. and U.S. possessions. Canadian rates are \$38.40 for 12 issues and \$56 for 24 issues and \$56 for 24 issues and \$570.80 for 24 issues and \$570.80 for 24 issues and \$70.80 for 25 issues and \$70.8

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

BPA International Consumer Magazine Membership



For subscriptions and customer service call (904) 445-4320

FEDERATION

Faties



Name: Garret Mathson

Age: 11

Hometown: The Plains, OH School: Plains Elementary School

Grade: Sixth

Future Ambition: To become a World Wrestling Federation Superstar!

Favorite Federation Superstar: The Undertaker

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Mankind

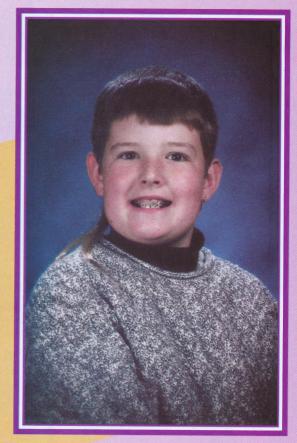
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation:

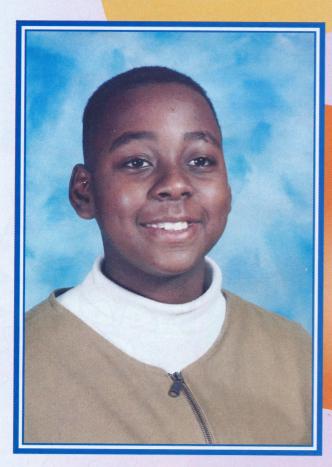
All the great matches at each Pay-Per-View

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Give the Undertaker a shot at the Federation Title at every Pay-Per-View.

What I do when I'm not watching the

World Wrestling Federation: I play with my six-year-old Australian
Skepherd Joanny and ride my bike.





Name: Ron O'Neal

Age: 13

Hometown: Baltimore, MD

School: Northeast Middle School

Grade: Eighth

Future Ambition: To be a professional basketball player.

Favorite Federation Superstar: Shawn Michaels

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: The British Bulldog

What I like best about the World Wrestling

Federation: When they bring the awesome live events to town!

If I were president of the World Wrestling

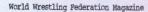
Federation, I would: Have three referees for each match!

What I do when I'm not watching the World

Wrestling Federation: I play basketball and collect

wrestling magazines!





Questinis, Gomi

There is no time limit!!

World Wrestling Federation Magazine
Interactive is a no-time-limit, no-holdsbarred, communicative channel where
you can connect with the Federation
any day or night in order to bodyslam
us with your opinions and views!
We've opened up the ring ropes to offer you many lines of communication.
Whether it be by fax, phone, E-mail or
post office, our cauliflower ears are
open to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a
week! So, don't be a ham-n-egger!!!
Spill your ideas, and voice your opinions—WE WANT TO HEAR 'EM!

How to reach us!!

For subscription questions, orders, renewals and change-of-address requests, call 904-445-4320.

To reach the editor, use any of the methods listed below:



FAX your comments, questions and suggestions to: 203-359-5118



E-MAIL us at the following Internet address: WWFEDITOR@AOL.COM



WRITE us at:
World Wrestling Federation Magazine,
c/o Vince Russo, Editor,
P.O. Box 3859,
Stamford, CT 06905.

Letter:



Dear Editor,

In the December issue, for the first time ever I read a NO COM-MENT from you! What that tells me is that you can't handle saying NO to Sunny! You writers at the World Wrestling Federation Magazine need to get tougher. You are the EDITOR and you are supposed to stand up for yourself and your magazine! You just go and let her put herself all over the pages of your magazine whenever she wants to. I'd hate to say it, but when Sunny wants something you always buckle under and give it to her! Jessica Suriano Spokane, Washington

Dear Jessica, OBVIOUSLY, you've never tried to say NO to Sunny!!!

FAX:



Dear Editor,

After reading the first few editions of Owen Hart's "Slammy This", I would have to state that you have made the BEST move possible by hiring Owen as a new columnist! Not only is he intelligent, trustworthy, loyal and respected, but he is also the BEST-looking athlete in the Federation today. NOW, how about giving the British Bulldog his own column?

Stephanie Saarbach
Baltimore Co., Maryland

Dear Stephanie, Intelligent? Maybe. Trustworthy? Perhaps. Loyal and respected? Possibly. BEST LOOKING? FORGET IT!!!

E-mail:



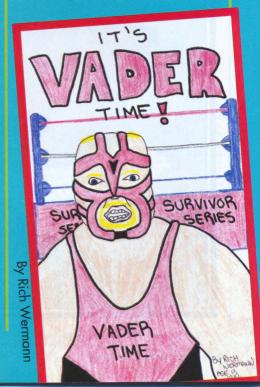
Dear Editor,

I think it is all well and good that Clarence Mason has brought Crush back to the World Wrestling Federation, but attacking the fans is another story! How can World Wrestling Federation officials stand by and let a man like Crush—a convict for God's sake-manhandle whomever he sees fit? I understand Clarence is out to protect the Kona native's rights, but surely Gorilla Monsoon can do something with this guy. After all, he makes the rules for the Federation! Tina Singh

Tina Singh tsingh@ix.netcom.com

Dear Tina,

You hit the fan, I mean NAIL, on the head!!! There is no place in the World Wrestling Federation for superstars who put their hands on fans! If Crush can't stand the heat—then he should go back to SOLITARY CONFINEMENT!



nents and gossip

INTERACTIN' WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Letter:



Dear Editor,

I was appalled by the actions of Stone Cold Steve Austin on a recent edition of Sunday morning Superstars. I used to really respect the man from Victoria, Texas, but when he decided to attack his former best friend on national television I lost all admiration for him. Why hasn't there been any action taken against him for this heinous act? If a wrestler can get away with this type of stuff, then the World Wrestling Federation will turn into total anarchy! Claude Valade

Dear Claude,

If you were Federation president Gorilla Monsoon, WOULD YOU attempt to take action against Stone Cold Steve Austin? 1 WOULDN'T!!! Gorilla doesn't need to "sleep with the fish" (ask your Italian Grandma) in his grandson's wading pool!!!

Orleans, Ontario, Canada



Dear Editor,

I think that you should put Vic Venom in his place and totally get rid of THE BITE once

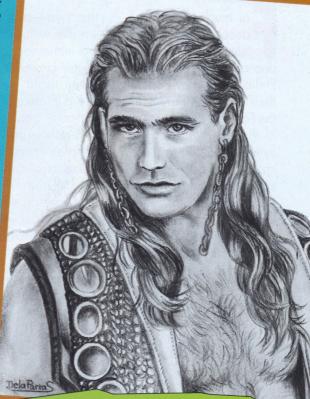
and for all! Why not include more columns like "Scoop Sullivan", "Secret Superstar" and "Federation Fanatics"? I mean, come on! Get real! Who needs to listen to that guy anyway? All of my friends don't like it, and he does nothing but yell at people.

Joanne Van vanv@worldnet.att.net

Dear Joanne.

Vic Venom is by far the most "honest" contributor on my staff! Even though you may not necessarily agree with everything that Vic has to say, you have to admire him for having the guts to say what's on

his mind—no matter WHAT the consequences may be!



CALL THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION SUPERSTAR HOTLINE AT

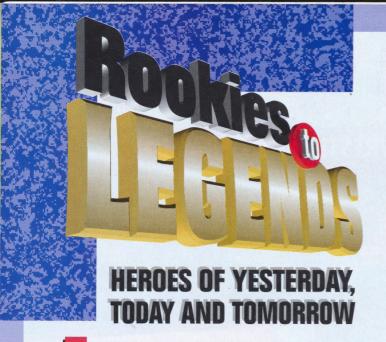
1-900-737-4w

\$1.49 per minute.

Must be 18 years of age or have parents' permission.

- FEDERATION TRIVIA: OPTION 1
- DAILY SUPERSTAR INTERVIEW: OPTION 2
- FEDERATION ADVENTURE GAME: OPTION 3
 CANADIAN REPORT: OPTION 7
- THE GREAT VIC VENOM: OPTION 4
- INTERACTIVE WRESTLING GAME: OPTION 5
- ROSS REPORT: OPTION 6
- IN YOUR HOUSE POST-MATCH COMMENTS: OPTION 8

De la Par



or much of the past decade, the internationally reknowned duo of Doug Furnas and Philip LaFon have spent their time competing in the Far East against some of the world's best highflying teams. While separately touring Japan some eight years ago, the two met and have been clicking on all cylinders ever since. While in Japan, they learned to work as a cohesive unit and began capturing titles within months, courtesy of their brand of nononsense wrestling. To put it simply, these men have bagged gold wherever they have roamed.

Fans in the Far East and even in the southern United States are quite aware of what damage these two can do in the ring. Furnas, a former bodybuilder, once ripped the iron door off a steel cage in one of his first-ever wrestling appearances in the Continental Wrestling Association. LaFon, on the other hand, is the technician of

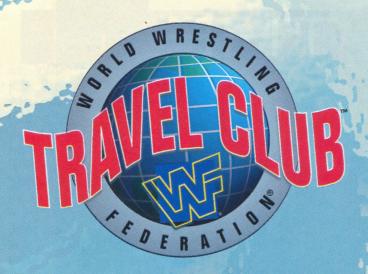
the two—a pure mat wrestler with gravity-defying maneuvers at his disposal. However, on any given night, you could see a Frankensteiner, a half-nelson bridge suplex or a reverse off-the-top superplex from either of these two men. Now, fans of the Federation finally get to enjoy what international audiences have been raving about for years.

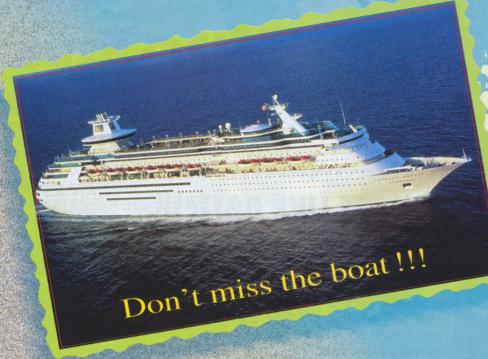
At the 1996 Survivor Series, these worldwide superstars landed in the "big time", and true to their reputation, Furnas and LaFon outlasted three other teams—the Godwinns, the New Rockers and Owen Hart and the British Bulldog—to stand as the sole survivors. Few fans in attendance that night or watching on Pay-Per-View will ever forget Furnas and LaFon going move for thrilling move against Owen and Davey Boy after the Godwinns and the Rockers were sent back to the showers. And just 24 hours later, the duo handed tag team specialists Leif Cassidy and Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly a defeat on Monday Night RAW.

"Everyone knows in this business that if you want to be the best, you have to wrestle the best," Furnas said. "We didn't want to come to the World Wrestling Federation before we were ready, so we honed our skills in Japan first. It was an incredible thrill to be able to win in our debut match at Madison Square Garden, knowing the history of the arena and the fans—it was a feeling I couldn't explain."

It doesn't take a wrestling genius to figure out that if Furnas and LaFon triumphed in New York City, then they are sure to be a huge success against any other team they face in the Federation. After all, if you can make it there. then you can make it anywhere. And judging by the moves these two continually show off in the ring, it looks like the Federation career of Furnas and LaFon is going to be painted one color for a very long time-GOLD! WF







The Wrestle Vessel II will be boarding soon.

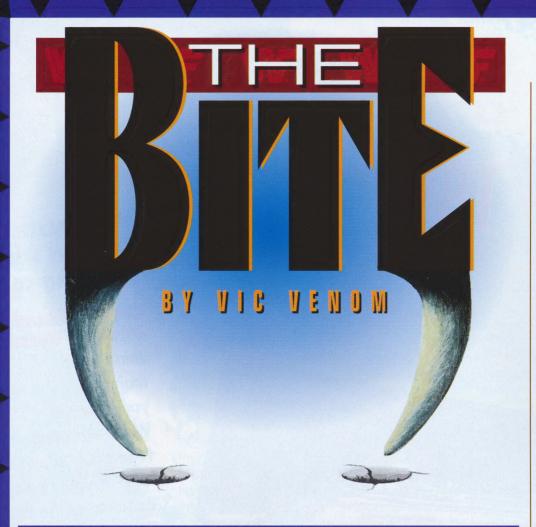
Cruise Aboard Wrestle Vessel II

Join us and many of your favorite World Wrestling Federation superstars for a 4-night /5-day Bahamas cruise aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's Sovereign of the Seas from July 14-18, 1997.

HROYAL CARIBBEAN

Catch The Wave! Call 1-203-359-5440





THERE'S JUST NO PLACE LIKE HOME!!!

In covering the World Wrestling Federation, I've visited hundreds of cities and arenas across the country. From the beautiful Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, to that DUMP in Poughkeepsie, New York. Have any of you ever visited Poughkeepsie? GOOD!!! Don't!!! The place is a dive! Its streets are infested with nothing but Jim Cornette look-a-likes! Now I know I'm gonna get heat for

that because the Federation brass will tell me, "You can't talk about Poughkeepsie like that! We have fans there!" You know what... TOUGH!!! The place is the armpit of the world!!!

Anyway, aside from Poughkeepsie, I have met a lot of great fans while covering the beat! Yeah, you have your share of cute, snot-nosed kids and their parents who try to keep them in a closet, but

I'm not talking about THOSE fans! I'm talking about MY KIND OF FANS!!! The "Know-It-Alls". Armchair promoters who second-quess Vince McMahon on EVERYTHING he does! Fans who eat, sleep and professional wrestling—not sports-entertainment—PROFES-SIONAL WRESTLING! Yeah, you know who you are. You herald the eye gouge as the best "hold"

of our time, and label Austin 3:16 as BIBLI-CAL!!! Hardcores. The backbone of the fan base. The meat-and-potatoes fans!

AND SPEAKING OF BIBLICAL!!!

The evening of November 17, 1996, I, Vic Venom, had just about as close to a biblical experience as I'm ever gonna get!!! Now, I've said a lot of NASTY things about a lot of NASTY people in my day, so when Judgment Day comes... I won't be surprised if those pearly gates stay locked!!! However, at the Survivor Series in New York's Madison Square Garden for three hours I had a taste of euphoria. As my good friend Axel would say, "I WAS KNOCK-KNOCK-KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR!!!"

What can you say about Madison Square Garden and its fans?! No doubt-THE BEST IN THE WORLD!!! They have a "real" understanding for what we do here in the World Wrestling Federation, and for that we truly appreciate them! They could be our best friends or at times our harshest critics, but either way they are responsible for making the World Wrestling Federation TICK!!! Without fans like the Garden fans, there would be no WF. I mean. look what happened to the WBF (sorry, Vince)!!!

What makes them so great, you ask? It's easy... THEY'RE DE-MENTED! SICK! CRAZY! At the Survivor Series I had a conversation with three 10-year-old boys who were telling me that JIM ROSS could part the Red Sea—IF HE REALLY WANTED TO!!! Another kid in his teens had a 15minute conversation with me on why MANKIND would be the best man to run this country! They're NUTS!!! A PACK OF LUNATICS!!! Also at the Garden, one

bodacious female grabbed me by the arm and told me she would give me \$100 for the Undertaker's phone number. When I asked her what she would do with it, she answered, "I'd give him an AUTOPSY he would never forget!!!"

You know what, it just dawned on me, it's a cartoon! It's all makebelieve. IT HAS TO BE!!! Maybe the fans come to the Garden as these characters, and they're only acting for three hours! I mean, these WACKOS can't be real!!! The Rosati Sisters? Come on. They've got to be actress-

es. What about Blackjack Brown? A tall, slim Afro-American wrestling journalist (and a damn good one) who wears his hat backwards and forever has a camera hanging around his neck. Now I know that may sound normal to you, BUT ... THE GUY HAS CAULIFLOWER EARS!!! How the heck does a photojournalist get CAULIFLOWER EARS?!

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE BIGGEST WHACK-JOB OF THEM ALL!!!
One word: VLADIMIR.

You've all seen him. The NUT CASE who sits in the front row at just about every World Wrestling Federation event. Short hair, glasses, pretty impressive build, HUGE MOUTH!!! This guy is SUPER FAN! As a matter of fact, somebody told me that Vladimir has already stated that when he dies, he wants his ashes put in Paul Bearer's urn, so that ... PAUL CAN THROW THEM IN THE UNSUSPECTING FACE OF SHAWN MICHAELS... TEMPORARILY BLIND-ING HIM ... CAUSING

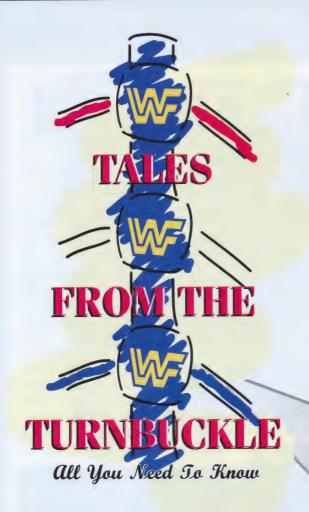
HIM TO LOSE TO MANKIND!!!

AND SPEAKING OF SHAWN MICHAELS...

I had to laugh the day after the Survivor Series when Vince McMahon asked me if I was surprised that the Garden fans booed Shawn Michaels. "Surprised?" I asked. "THE MAJORITY OF THESE FANS WOULD WANT SID TO HIT THEIR OWN MOTHER WITH A CHAIR—IF SHE WERE IN THAT RING AGAINST HIM!!!"

Man, was it great to go home!!!





Quote of the month

"Jose Lothario, I have a lot of respect for you, but it was a mistake to put your #\$@ on the ring apron! You became part of the game! And when you become part of the game with THE MAN, only MISERY can come from that!"

-SYCHO SID, on what he did to Jose Lothario at the Survivor Series

Prior to entering the
World Wrestling Federation,
the man they call Vader was
a monster of the gridiron!
The Rocky Mountain Mastodon was
an offensive tackle for the then Los
Angeles (now St. Louis) Rams!

DON'T SAY

SHATGUN SATURDAY NIGHT!

They don't call the World Wrestling Federation the "Revolutionary Force in Sports-Entertainment" just for kicks, folks! In case you are one of the people living under the rocks at the beach who hasn't heard about Shotgun Saturday Night yet, find your clicker and start tuning in!

Longtime fans of the Federation will no doubt remember Saturday Night's Main Event, the live broadcast that put the World Wrestling Federation on the map every Saturday night during its reign in the 80s. NOW the concept has been reborn for the more mature fans of the 1990s and BEYOND!

Every Saturday at 12 midnight, the Federation and its superstars will be TOTALLY LIVE from a new weekly spot in the "Big Apple" with action like you've never witnessed before! The World Wrestling Federation could be "live and dangerous" in any arena, night club, Central Park field, corner deli or on top of the Empire State Building... ANYWHERE WE CAN BUILD A RING!

Due to the late night time slot, you can bet that there may be a few more "surprises" than you are used to seeing during our "milder" programming! What surprises, you ask? Well, let's just say that some of America's most well-known actors and entertainers have expressed their interest in learning the rules of the ring! To catch the action of SHOTGUN SATURDAY NIGHT, check your local listings for time and channel!

Get in the game with the

ADDED VALUE!

The first 2000 cable or satellite customers who send in a copy of their cable bill showing purchase of February's *In Your House* will receive an autographed photograph of a Federation superstar and a poster book. A copy of the bill must be received by April 30, 1997, and MUST show proof of purchase!

All bills should be sent to:

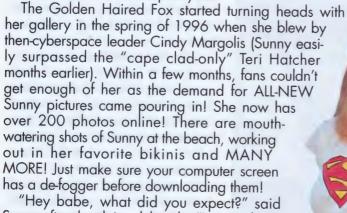
P.O. Box 3857 Stamford, CT 06902

A MILLION MORE REASONS TO LOVE SUNNY!

This past November, Sunny did what no other celebrity in the history of cyberspace has ever been able to do since the invention of the keyboard—achieve the ONE MILLION DOWNLOAD mark!

Since November of 1995, the "Sunny Delight" gallery has been a smash hit for all the World Wrestling Federation's online fans. It was estimated that cybersurfers were downloading her pictures at a rate of 3000-5000 times a day in the World Wrestling Federation site on

America Online over the past year!



Sunny after she claimed the title. "I owe a lot to my fans on America Online. The only decision now is whether to go on Conan, Leno or Letterman... decisions, decisions, decisions! And hey, who said I'm stopping here? Two million sounds twice as nice to me right now!"





- 14 Cincinnati, OH
- 15 St. Paul, MN
- 16 Chattanooga, TN (In Your House)
- 17 Nashville, TN (RAW)
- 18 Birmingham, AL
- 19 Huntsville, AL
- 20 Knoxville, TN
- 20 Aschaffenburg, GER
- 21 Durham, NH
- 21 Chemnitz, GER
- 22 New Haven, CT
- 22 Dresden, GER
- 23 Glens Falls, NY
- 23 Cologne, GER
- 24 Oberhausen, GER
- 25 Hamburg, GER
- 26 Berlin, GER
- 27 Halle, GER
- 28 New Orleans, LA
- 28 Bayreuth, GER

March

- 1 Alexandria, LA
- 2 Tyler, TX
- Buffalo, NY
- 8 Cleveland, OH
- 8 Detroit, MI
- 9 Springfield, MA
- 10 Worcester, MA (RAW)
- 14 Louisville, KY
- 15 Landover, MD
- 16 MSG, NYC
- 23 Chicago, IL (WrestleMania XIII)
- 24 Rockford, IL (RAW)
- 25 Peoria, IL



FEDERATION SUPERSTARS HAVE A TOUCH OF MAGIC!

During the recent World Wrestling Federation BIG BANG BOOM tour, superstars took some time out from their matches to visit 14 visually impaired and blind children as part of the "Touch Tour" in Huntington, West-Virginia.

The Bushwackers, Bart Gunn, Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly and Billy Gunn were among the competitors who took part in the exciting experience with some fans of the World Wrestling Federation. In order to "feel" what each superstar looked like, the children took turns touching the faces of each wrestler with their fingers (don't tell Billy that they thought Bart was the better looking of the two brothers!).

After the activities came to an end, each participant and their visual escort received a free ticket to the World Wrestling Federation matches that night, along with a souvenir Federation T-shirt, courtesy of city council member Bill Toney, who was also in attendance.

"We had a ball with these kids today, mate!" said Bushwhacker Luke. "Many of the fans of the World Wrestling Federation take for granted seeing the superstars in action! This was our way of bringing the action to them!"





FOR HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY'S NOSE:

- During rain delays at Yankee stadium, George Steinbrenner orders the groundskeepers to use Hunter's handkerchief to cover up the field and keep it dry.
- Every four years, NASA rents out Hunter's nose as a hanger to secretly house their "Explorer" and "Columbia" shuttles for space missions prior to launching them.
- George Lucas has already inked a deal to use Hunter's nose in the next *Star Wars* trilogy. It will play Jabba the Hut's stand-in during stunt scenes!
- Freestyle rock climbers now pay \$7.00 an hour to scale Hunter's nose.

 Thus far, no man has been able to make it to the top without being airlifted to safety.
- Remember the "Bridge to the 21st Century" Bill Clinton talked about during his 1996 Presidential Campaign? Scientists estimate Hunter's nose is so long it could possibly lead us into the 37th century.

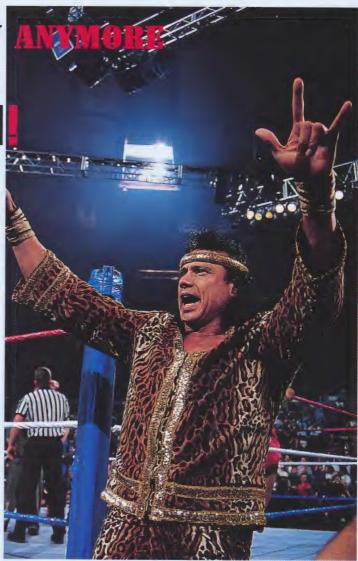
IT'S NOT A MYSTERY JIMMY SNUKA "SUPERFLYS" AGAIN

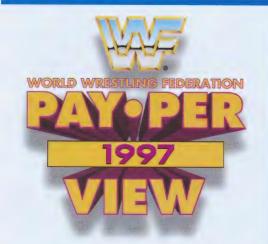
At the 1996 Survivor Series, Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka defied all odds by returning to the World Wrestling Federation against the team of Vader, Razor Ramon, Diesel and Faarooq. For months beforehand, the team of Yokozuna, Savio Vega and Flash Funk had a mystery partner for the match, but wouldn't spill the beans on just who it was.

Fans of the Federation began to run down a list of potential candidates of who that mystery man would be. The Internet and 900 numbers were flooded with "inside" information on the topic—claiming they KNEW the inside scoop. Finally, at the Survivor Series, Snuka parted the curtains to the roar of the Madison Square Garden fans and took to the ring. The original phenom of the Federation proved that he still had one Superfly leap left in him—the move that made him famous in the Garden—when he pounced on a helpless Razor Ramon from some 20 feet up.

In the next issue of the RAW Magazine, which hits newsstands on February 17, we will have a feature on the life and career of one of the World Wrestling Federation's greatest competitors—Jimmy

"Superfly" Snuka!





January 19

ROYAL RUMBLE San Antonio, TX

February 16

IN YOUR HOUSE Memphis, TN

March 23

WRESTLEMANIA XIII

Chicago, IL

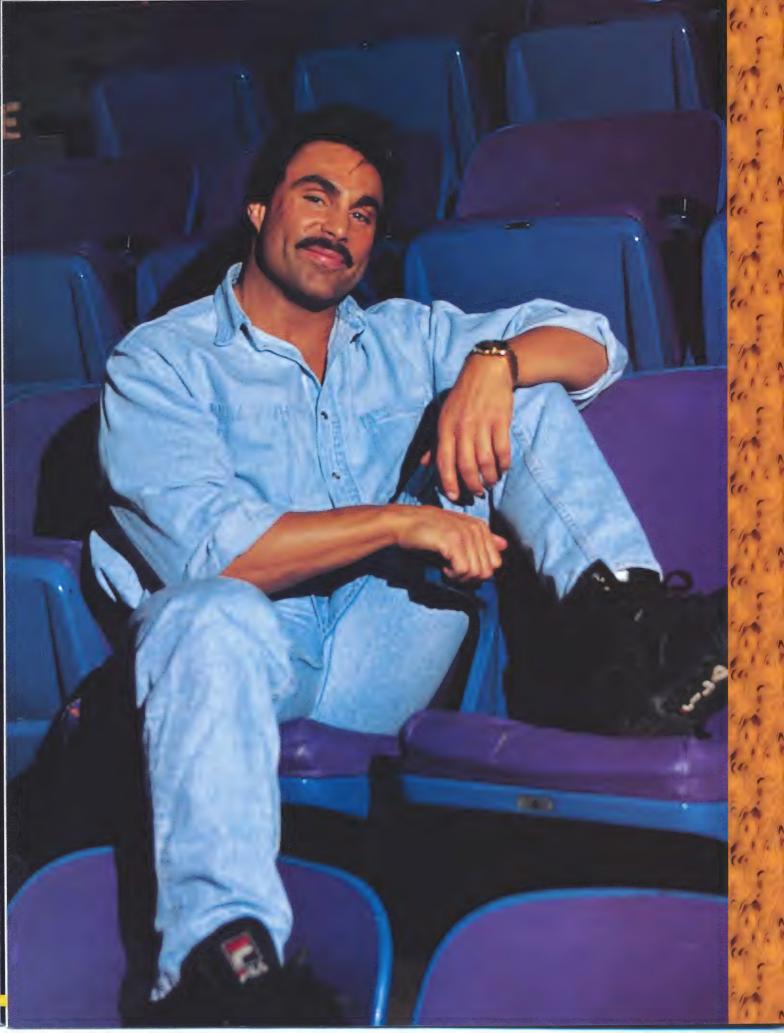


Call your local cable company. Your cable operator will have specific information on how to order and the cost of each event. You can also check your last month's cable bill for a special ordering phone number for your system's pay-per-view events.

For satellite dish reception, via the larger C-Band dishes, call: Prime Time 24 1-800-989-7526

For direct satellite reception, via the smaller KU-Band dishes, call: Direct TV 1-800-347-3288

1) All events are on Sunday at 7pm ET. 2) Replays for all In Your House events at 9pm ET. 3) Replays for all five other events are at 10pm ET. 4) Encores for all five other events are the Tuesday following the event. The times of the encores are 8pm and 11pm ET.



MARC MERQ

AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY VINCE RUSSO

(Last month, in Part I of his Beneath the Skin interview, we learned in great detail about the troubled youth of Wildman Marc Mero. Growing up in a broken home, Marc described himself as a "curious" teen who allowed peer pressure and foolish mistakes to guide him down the wrong path. A path of drugs, crime and eventual self-destruction. In Part II of this unforgettable interview, the Wildman will explain how an "angel" entered his dark life and gave him the strength to claw his way back to the guiding light.)

EDITOR: So, at 26 years of age, you "officially" end your boxing career. With your future still very much ahead of you, in what direction did you choose to go?

MERO: The only place I knew. I began to get involved in drugs again. At that time I was living in Buffalo, and I was getting into all kinds of trouble. I got arrested, but I wasn't convicted... I once again got away. It was the fourth time that I had been arrested, but every time I somehow got away... mainly because they didn't have enough evidence to convict me. I wanted to get away from New York because I was getting in too much trouble, so I decided to move to Florida and build swimming pools with my brother. My plan was to start over and get away from drugs, but eventually we began using the money we were making to make drug deals. It was still a continuous, vicious cycle I was involved with. **EDITOR:** So what happened?

MERO: I met a guy who was involved with professional wrestling, and he told me about a wrestling school in Tampa, Florida. So, looking to change direction in my life, I decided to go.

EDITOR: Prior to this, had the thought of professional wrestling ever crossed your mind?

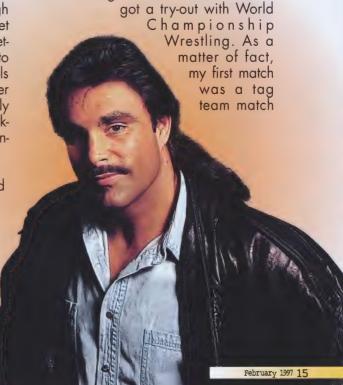
MERO: I always enjoyed watching professional wrestling, so it was like, "I'm going to give this a

try and see what it's like!" When I started at the school I soon realized that it was a lot harder than it looked. Being a real good athlete—my record speaks for itself in boxing, 58-2, 37 KOs, 16 in the first round. I was all-state in football. I was all-state in hockey. I played junior hockey with the Syracuse Stars. I had a stellar athletic background, but coming to professional wrestling it was like, "This is a whole new ball game! This is so much punishment on your body!" Getting slammed every day when your body's not used to it? I remember going home the first day and thinking, "My gosh, I don't know if I can handle this!"

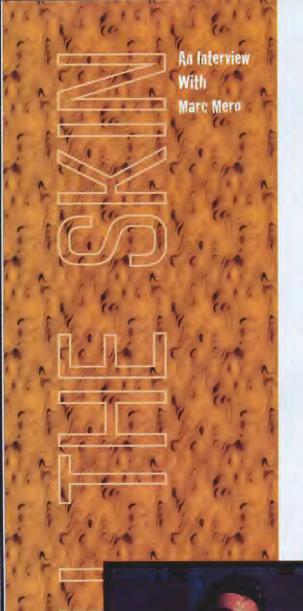
EDITOR: Who was training you? **MERO:** I was trained by the Great Boris

Malenko at Malenko's Pro Wrestling

Camp. I was driving from Sarasota, Florida, to Tampa, which is about an hour and a half drive, every weekend. I started to really become interested in making professional wrestling a career. Then, in 1991 I



World Wrestling Federation Magazine



against Ron Simmons and Butch Reed, who were known as DOOM at the time. Who would have thought that five years later I would wind up winning the Intercontinental Title from Faaroog [Ron Simmons] in the World Wrestling Federation?! Anyway, getting back to the match with DOOM, those two guys beat me up so bad in that match.... I drove from Sarasota, Florida, to Atlanta, Georgia—9 hours—to get beat up so bad for \$150. I drove back looking at myself in the mirror and saying, "I can't believe I did this!" But, at the time I had no monev. no job, and the next week I did it again and the next week I did it again. I was just barely getting by. I remember my mom sending me gas money just so I could get down there. Then, finally one day Dusty Rhodes saw me and he said, "Kid, did anybody ever tell you that you look like Little Richard?" I said, "Little Richard?!" And he said, "Yeah, I think I have a great idea for you!" That's how Johnny B. Badd was born. The funny thing is that I can remember the big day when I was going to sign my first contract like it

was yesterday. I went to get in my car... and it was gone! They had repossessed it! A buddy of mine had to give me a ride down to the CNN Center. So, now I had no money AND no car! When I finally arrived at the big meeting, Dusty put a contract in front of me and he said, "Kid, I want you to have your attorney look this over and bring it back signed." I looked at it and I saw... \$75,000!!! Immediately I said, "Dusty, my only other option is unemployment. CAN I SIGN IT NOW!" I signed it right there and that was my first contract with WCW. I couldn't believe how excited I was. Now, I had the opportunity to do something!

EDITOR: How much of the Johnny B. Badd persona was Marc Mero. MERO: Well, when they first gave me the character... I was just so excited about having a job! I'll never forget when I went to the first TV taping and they sent me into makeup and I looked into the mirror and I saw all that lipstick and all that eye-liner and powder. I thought, "Oh, my gosh! What have they done to me?!" It was funny because the first show I was ever on was a Pay-Per-View out of Tampa, and I remember my dad calling me and telling me that he was having all his friends over—all his police buddies—to watch me on his big TV. He was so excited he kept saying, "My son's going to be on next!" He was so excited because I was going to make my big debut as a professional wrestler. When I walked out, he said, "Here he is! Here he is!" And there I was—with that feather boa and all that make-up! I walked to the microphone and I said, "I'm so pretty I should have been born a little girl!" My dad... his jaw, along with everybody else's in the room, just dropped. These were the same guys who saw me win the State Golden Gloves! They saw me knock guys out and now they were seeing me come out like that! Basically, all my dad said was, "AOY-VAY!", which is "Jewish" for "Oh my gosh!" It was a

very humbling experience.

EDITOR: When you began portraying Johnny B. Badd, were you told that this character was effeminate?

MERO: Oh yes. Well... not exactly. I hadn't learned about the make-up and everything until that first day. But, of course, having a job and making that kind of money, you basically do anything. I was going to do what I was told. I was told to act very feminine and talk with a Southern accent... basically I was doing Dusty Rhodes in make-up! It was his brain child. What was really hard, though, Vince, was being brandnew in the sport and not having any matches... I mean I didn't know anything other than what I learned in wrestling school and I didn't go very long, maybe two months, if that! I had only been in the ring maybe 12 or 15 times and here I am wrestling veterans like Ricky Morton and Tom Zenk! There was a lot of animosity towards me. I really didn't have a lot of friends. I felt like an outcast. It was very frustrating. I also felt that the gimmick was stupid, but I was determined to get that stupid gimmick over. That's when I came up with the confetti gun and the "Kiss That Don't Miss!" I just decided to have fun with it. I almost made a joke out of it! Think about it, I put kisses on people after I knocked them out! It was like. "They want me to kiss people? Fine, maybe I won't 'kiss' them, but I'll at least 'stick a kiss' on them!" I just kept coming up with different ideas for that character, and people just began to get with it! They thought, "This guy is NUTS! He's having fun!" If people see you having fun, then they're going to have fun, too! EDITOR: It would seem at this point that you finally hit your stride. Your future appears to be bright and the dark days of your past seem to be far behind. Would you agree with that?

MERO: Well, at this point I'm doing steroids now! I made it to the Big Leagues, so the thing that I have to do is steroids! Plus I'm still dabbling in drugs once in a while. WCW was not very strict on drug

testing... my first three years there I was never even tested! I never even thought about getting caught doing drugs! So, now I'm still involved in the same old garbage, but now I'm making money. I'm in the limelight and everything appears to be going smooth, but inside... I was still unhappy. The day that changed my life... and this is the truth... was the day I met Sable. I met someone that I wanted to be like. Someone honest who had so much faith in God that she put him first in her life. She was happy and it didn't have anything to do with wealth—she lived a very modest life. She didn't care about material things... she just loved life. When I met her... that day... I'll never forget the feeling I had... it was that I wanted to be with this woman the rest of my life! For the next year, I would always call her when I was on the road, when I was down and out, if I had a rough night... she would just make me feel so good... at that point I knew I didn't need drugs or alcohol anymore.

EDITOR: From there, how did the

relationship develop?

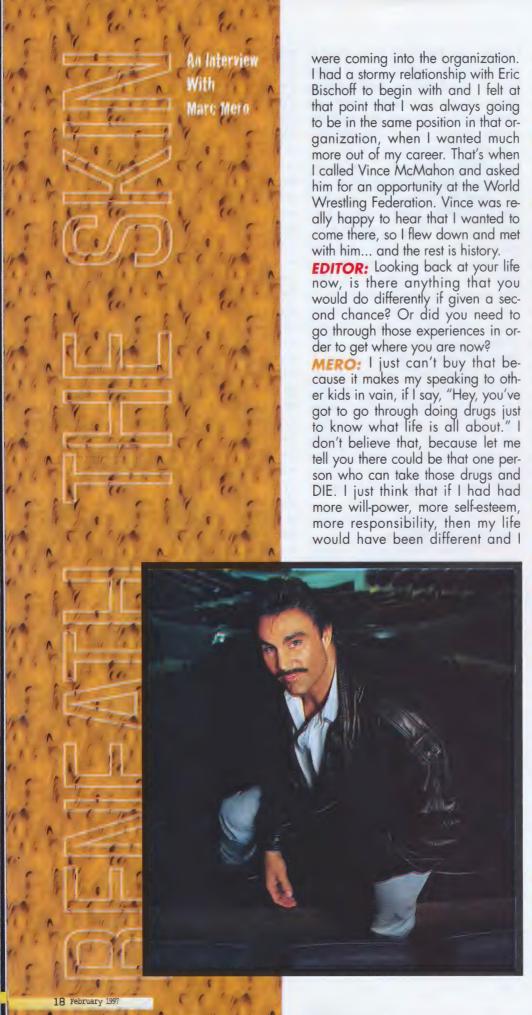
Well, Sable was a model and she got a big job in Atlanta where I was living at the time. That's when I really started to spend some time with her and get to know her. I soon realized that I wanted to marry this woman. I also realized that that meant certain stipulations, primarily... no drugs. But I knew that would be easy for me to give up at that point in my life because I saw the happiness. I never wanted to drink or do drugs again because she didn't drink or do drugs. She always went to church, so I started to go to church with her. At that point in my life I realized that God had placed someone in my life who was going to change me for the better! From that point on I realized what I wanted. I wanted to be a positive influence. I had this platform called professional wrestling that would enable me to go out and help so many people, and serve as a positive role model to them. Soon after that, Sable and I began working

programs with children by going to their schools and talking to them. We were now making a difference. We started a program called, "Stay Clean—If You Know What I Mean", where Sable and I go and talk to elementary and middle school kids because we feel that these are the kids who are most impressionable, where a lot of high school kids have already more or less made up their minds concerning certain situations. Our purpose was to reach these kids while they were younger and educate them on the importance of school and the danger of drugs. Sable also talks to older female students about such issues as their bodies being their own, safe sex and AIDS. These are just some of the areas that we are getting into. We also talk at a lot of churches about our faith in Christ and what God has done in our lives—how he has changed our lives. We do a lot of charity work with organizations such as Make-A-Wish and Dream Works. We also work with many local organizations in our own community. The reason that we do this is because we feel that God has given us this opportunity through professional wrestling. I mean if we just became stars and people said, "Hey, there's Marc Mero and there's Sable," and we didn't do anything, I feel we'd be missing the point about why we're here. For us, it's just the gratification of getting that one letter from that one kid, or that one parent that says, "You really helped me through a hard time." That's what's important—not how great we are as performers, or wrestlers or people. It's just the point that maybe you made a difference in somebody else's life. And we've been noticing that we have been making a difference, and that's what's special for us.

EDITOR: Let's talk a little about your jump from WCW to the World

Wrestling Federation.

MERO: Well, once I started living a better life, I felt that I needed a change in direction. My contract had expired with WCW and at the same time a lot of new acquisitions



wouldn't have had to go through those things to realize what happiness is all about. Maybe if I had met Sable about 15 years earlier, it would have been a lot easier, too.

EDITOR: If you were in a room with an 18-year-old who was much like you were at that age, what would you tell him?

MERO: That's a great question. I don't think that there's only one thing that I could tell him, but if I could sit down with him and tell him my life story... explain how I almost died... I would let him see how it wasn't worth it. But first I would ask him, "What do you want out of life? What one thing would make you happy?" It's funny, but whenever you ask a young person what would make them happy it always stems around material things. Well, let me tell you something—the thing I learned that was most important to me is that material things ARE NOT what make you happy. What makes you happy in life is to be loved... and to love somebody.

EDITOR: At this point in your life, what is the one thing that is most important to Marc Mero?

MERO: My relationship with God is the most important thing in my life.

EDITOR: When your ring career is over, what plans do you and Sable have?

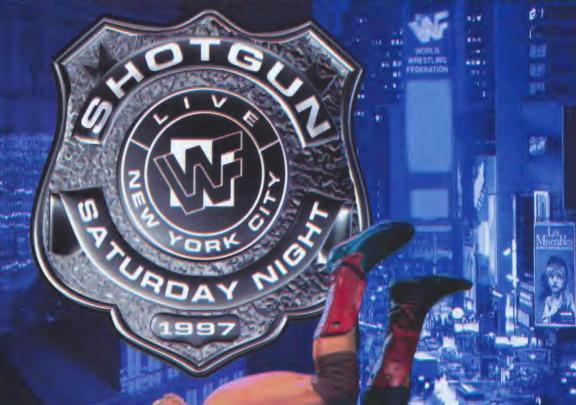
MERO: That's a good question because Sable and I talk about that all the time. We hope to wrestle for five more years with the World Wrestling Federation and then get involved with a youth program or ministry where we can be an influence on young people's lives. We want to continue to do what we're doing, but only on a full-time basis. That's why we're working hard now and saving our money, so that we can do something after wrestling that we WANT to do, not HAVE to do.

EDITOR: When all is said and done, how does Marc Mero want to be remembered?

MERO: I'd like to be remembered as someone who stood up for what he believed in and someone who truly cared. WF

LIVE

from NEW YORK CITY it's SHOTGUN SATURDAY NIGHT!

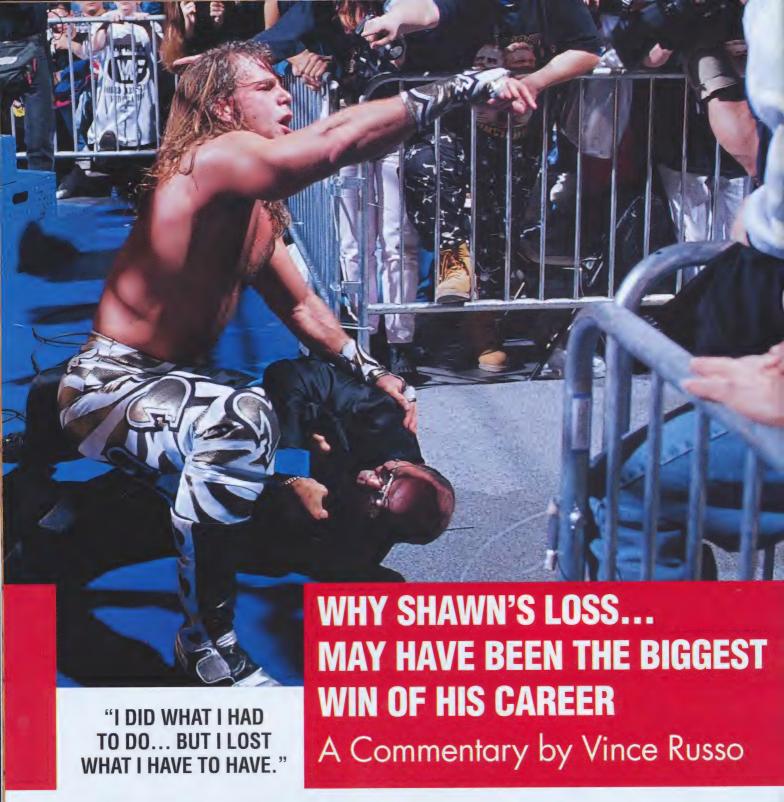


W LATE

It's a smokin sexy, rockin good time!

Every Saturday Night!

check your local listing.



hose were the words of the now EX-World Wrestling Federation Champion Shawn Michaels, less than 24 hours after Sycho Sid turned his boyhood dream into the nightmare of a

BUT PLEASE DON'T CRY FOR SHAWN, ARGENTINA!!!

He's surely not. Shawn Michaels fully understands the fire that lit Sycho Sid's fuse that night at the Survivor Series. The fire of becoming the World Wrestling Federation Champion. The fire of becoming... the best. It was the same flame that burned deep inside of Shawn Michaels just eight months prior at WrestleMania XII.

When Jose Lothario took it upon himself to climb up on that ring apron... Shawn Michaels

clearly understood why Sid did what he did. It was the fire. The heat of the battle. Doing whatever it takes to scratch, rip and claw to the top of your profession. Shawn Michaels had done it—in fact, many times throughout his illustrious career. In the World Wrestling Federation it's the survival of the fittest. You do what you have to do to not only be the best... but to



stay alive. Right or wrong, this is a world where nice guys finish DEAD last.

When it comes to battle inside the squared circle, like Sycho Sid... Shawn Michaels is not a "nice guy". He can't afford to be. It's not what brought him to the dance. The fire did. The win-at-allcosts attitude. At the Survivor Series, Shawn Michaels showed that he clearly forgot the law of the land. He was blinded by the intensity of another man's flame... Sycho Sid's flame. For his actions, Shawn Michaels has no regrets. The fact is, the following day he told me he would do the same thing... all over again... without even batting an eye. But even though he was disappointed— GREATLY—about losing the World Wrestling Federation Title, he understood the actions of Sycho Sid. He understood that Sid had to realize that if he could just some way take out Jose Lothario... he would take out Shawn Michaels along with him. When the opportunity arose... Sycho Sid wasted no time. Shawn understood... because he's been there.

As ironic as this may sound, it is the opinion of this editor that this loss—as crushing as it was will only make Shawn Michaels a BETTER champion in the not-so-distant future. In losing, I feel that Shawn now clearly understands the importance of the "fire". The "fire" that many claim he may have lost the night that Earl Hebner snapped the World Wrestling Federation Championship belt around his waist. The fire that had originally given Shawn Michaels that edge" that separated him from the rest of the pack. In my opinion, the moment Shawn's hand was raised in victory at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim, California... that edge gave way to what I call "Champion Protocol". Shawn Michaels was asked to walk and talk a different way. In carrying the banner for the World Wrestling Federation, he was now expected to set an example. Perhaps "act like" others think a champion should act.

And those "others" should be thrilled.

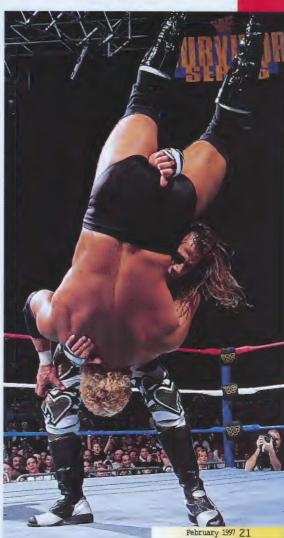
If Shawn Michaels had received a report card at the end of his championship reign, it clearly would have read straight A's. The bottom line is that Shawn did everything that was expected of him... and more. But my question is—did Shawn sacrifice what he expected of himself? In my opinion—I think he may have.

To go one step further... I think he found that out at the *Survivor Series* when it was already too little... too late.

Shawn Michaels was booed in Madison Square Garden that night. And not just booed, he was hissed at, cussed at and spat at. Never in my life had I seen that kind of reaction to Shawn Michaels. Certainly not when he had that "edge". Was the tough New York crowd trying to send Shawn a message? Were they



perhaps trying to convey to him that the championship may have indeed made him a "changed" man? Dampened the fire? I think so. I also think Shawn Michaels KNEW so. As a matter of fact, he knew the second he came through that curtain! You see, one thing about New Yorkers is that they're going to tell you how it is—



like it or not. Believe me, I know from experience! At Madison Square Garden, Shawn Michaels may have come face-to-face with his reality. It may have slapped him in the face so hard... so early... that he was never able to recover. Shawn went through that entire match unfocused. He looked like a man without confidence... without identity. A man who was second-guessing himself from the minute the bell rang. Well, the truth is... he was. Shawn Michaels may have not known who Shawn Michaels was anymore.

Ironically enough, losing to Sycho Sid may have been the best thing that could have happened to Shawn Michaels. It forced him to stop everything... and take a good, long, hard look at himself. In honesty... I don't think he liked what he saw. I think he saw a mere "shadow" of his former self. A man stripped of his confidence. A man who may have lost control of his own career. A fire... without a flame.

BUT HARK... IS THAT A BLOW TORCH I HEAR?!

After some extensive soul searching, I believe that Shawn Michaels is ready to dance once again! Only this time he will be dancing to the beat of a different drummer... HIMSELF!!! In my opinion, at the Royal Rumble... Shawn Michaels will be back—the "old" Shawn Michaels. The man who writes his own rule book and decides when it's time for the laws to be broken! The man who drips confidence and NEVER second-guesses his actions. The man who walks the walk and talks the talk. The man whose fire burns like an out-of-control inferno!

When Shawn Michaels wakes up on the morning of January 20 there is little doubt in my mind that he will once again be called Champion... only this time he will be his "OWN" Champion!

Welcome home, Shawn. WF



Bethefirst in line for

Chicago, IL • March 23, 1997 WrestleMania XIII will be an early sellout, so here's your chance to lock in the best seats, hotel rooms and special events with your favorite World Wrestling Federation Superstars. For more information on our exciting WrestleMania XIII travel packages and how to become a member of the new World Wrestling Federation Travel Club", simply fill out the coupon and mail or FAX to the address below.



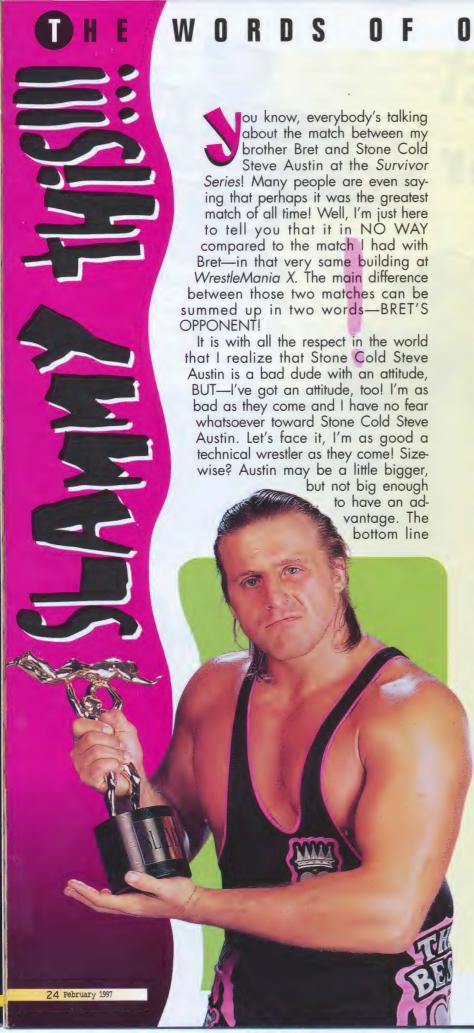
Yes! Please send me more information on WrestleMania XIII and how to become a member of the new Travel Club to:

- Date of birth-Name

Address

City|State|Zip Phone (Country

Please fill out form clearly and mail or FAX to: World Wrestling Federation Travel Club™ 1241 East Main Street Stamford, CT 06902 FAX: 203-359-5425



is that if the both of us ever got into the ring I would come out the best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be!!! And by the way, I don't appreciate Austin stealing my line either! If he thinks he's so bad and he has something to prove to the world, then why doesn't he try to redeem himself by fighting me!!!

Now, getting back to the Survivor Series, I don't want to sound like a cry baby, or make any excuses, but my forte with the Bulldog is TAG TEAM WRESTLING—WITH TWO TEAMS. We don't want to have some other team like the Rockers in our corner as tag team partners. If Philip LaFon and Doug Furnas think that they're so good—"Internationally Reknowned"—or whatever it is they call themselves, let us have them—TWO ON TWO! Under those circumstances I guarantee you that the results will be different!

And talking about great champions such as myself and the Bulldog, I would like to take the time to tip my Slammy to Evander Holyfield. I was extremely impressed with the way Holyfield manhandled Mike Tyson; however, I was even moreso moved with his comments following the fight. I truly respect Evander for giving his thanks to the Lord. You know, many people ask me why I don't thank anyone for my greatness? Well, the answer is simple. I don't need to go out there and express my feelings with the moron fans! The bottom line is— I thank myself because my mom and dad never helped me, my lousy brother Bret never helped me and the whole rest of my stinkin' family never helped me! I made myself GREAT!!!

SLAMMY THIS! LATER! **Your Vote Counts!**

ast your ballot **NOW** and help determine the winners of the 1997 World Wrestling Federation Slammy Awards!! Review each of the five categories below...evaluate the nominees...then VOTE for your favorites!



1997 WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION SLAMMY AWARD BALLOT

(Nominees represent the 1996 season)

Vote for only one nominee in each category

1996 WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATI	ION	NEW	SENSATION	V
OF THE SQUARED CIRCLE			- FI 1 F	

□ Stone Cold Steve Austin □ Wildman Marc Mero □ Flash Funk ☐ Mankind ☐ Rocky Maivia

1996 MATCH OF THE YEAR

- ☐ Shawn Michaels / Mankind (In Your House) ☐ Bret Hart / Stone Cold Steve Austin (Survivor Series) Undertaker / Mankind (Boiler Room Brawl, SummerSlam)
- ☐ Savio Vega / Steve Austin (Caribbean Strap Match, In Your House)
- ☐ Shawn Michaels / Bret Hart (WrestleMania XII)

"I, 2, HE'S GOT HIM" (BEST FINISHING MANEUVER)

- ☐ Shawn Michaels' Sweet Chin Music ☐ Wildman Marc Mero's Wild Thing
- ☐ Sycho Sid's Powerbomb ☐ Steve Austin's Stone Cold Stunner
- ☐ Bret Hart's Sharpshooter

BEST CAREER CROSSOVER TO THE SQUARED CIRCLE

- ☐ Brakus from professional bodybuilder ☐ Mark Henry from Olympic powerlifter
- □ T.L. Hopper from plumber □ Rocky Maivia from University of Miami Football
- ☐ Clarence Mason from the courtroom

□ Steve Austin □ Bret Hart □ Hunter Hearst-Helmsley □ Mankind □ Shawn Michaels

Name Address.

State____ City_

Female_ Male Age / Gender_

Mail this ballot to: "SLAMMYS", P.O. Box 1395, Stamford, CT 06904-1395. To be counted, this ballot must be received no later than Friday, March 7, 1997.



Keep watching your favorite World Wrestling Federation television programs for more "Slammy Award" categories...more nominees...and more information on how you can join the World Wrestling Federation Superstars and celebrities who will be attending the glamorous "Slammy Awards" banquet and ceremony in Chicago during the WrestleMania XIII Weekend! the early 80s. This is the event that made the King a household name all over the world. Kaufman, star of the hit television show Taxi, toured the United States and would often challenge women to come on stage and wrestle him. He soon dubbed himself the "Inter-Gender Champion" of the world, which attracted the attention of Lawler. The two later met in the squared circle, where Jerry embarrassed the actor and soundly demolished him with a Piledriver. Later, both men appeared on the David Letterman show, where Kaufman—sporting a neck brace—called the King every name in the book. Lawler obliged by slapping the comedian out of his chair... all in front of a nationwide audience.

"What I remember most about Andy was that no matter how annoying he was to me, he was such a huge fan of wrestling," Lawler stated. "He just wanted to be around the wrestlers and watch the matches. What amazed me was that he just kept coming back for more Royal punishment. I would drop him on his head, bodyslam him, but he would just keep getting back up. I truly think he missed his calling in life. He could have truly been one of the great personalities in the world of professional wrestling."

Great personality? Maybe.

Royalty? Definitely not!

Shortly before the 1

Shortly before the 1993 King of the Ring, Jerry Lawler entered the big leagues of the World Wrestling Federation. The fans knew who he was his large ego and reputation had preceded him. Working alongside Vince McMahon at the announcer's booth, it wasn't long before his mouth got him involved in a bitter feud with Bret "Hit Man" Hart. Just minutes after Bret donned the cape and crown at the King of the Ring, Lawler viciously attacked him, announcing that there could only be ONE King, and he wasn't about to hand that title away in one night.

Still steaming from the attack, Bret challenged the King to a match at the next possible opportunity—the premier In Your House Pay-Per-View event. Lawler and the Hit Man squared off for the first time since the attack, and to the shock of the fans in attendance, the King pinned the Hit Man after some help from Hakushi. A stunned Hart could only wait for revenge, which came at the 1995 King of the Ring. That night, in the "Kiss My Foot" match, Lawler was forced to taste the bitters of "Da-Feet" after the Hit Man won the war. Both Bret's AND Jerry's "little piggies" took a trip down the royal esophagus! After that match, Lawler took a more "kingly" position in the Federation. Lawler juggled his time in the USWA and World Wrestling Federation—as an announcer in both companies. Today, Lawler is a fixture on Monday Night RAW, where he has worked with both Vince McMahon and Jim Ross.

"I enjoy doing commentary with both organizations," the King

said. "It's a lot less wear and tear on my royal body. I do, however, envy Jim Ross, a man who has never laced up the boots, yet has more knowledge than most announcers in the history of wrestling. He is in an enviable position right now—and how he got there I don't know. He is able to do something that a lot of people would LOVE to do... to tell your boss where to go and get away with it."

In addition to his announcing responsibilities, Lawler still finds the time to compete in both the USWA and World Wrestling Federation. Even though he has held dozens of championships in his long career, Lawler regrets never having captured any Federation gold—something he still has posted on his royal "To Do" list.

"I don't get to wrestle in the Federation much," Lawler said. "But if I set my mind to it, I could easily squash all the peons who hold the gold! But hey, I'm the King, and for the time being I'll let those other morons battle every night just to have the privilege of losing to me!"



FAVORITE BAND:

Elvis (It takes a king to know a King!)

BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE:

Each time I walk out into an arena and hear the applause of my servants!

Person You Would Most LIKE TO MEET:

Marilyn Monroe

FAVORITE SPORT (BESIDES WRESTLING):

Baseball! GO INDIANS! The TRUE kings of the American League!

FAVORITE ATHLETE:

Albert Belle, who else! Hey, why are you booing, peon?!

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW:

Monday Night RAW because I'm on it!

HOBBIES:

My artwork! Michelangelo, you loser, EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

FAVORITE FOOD:

Southern Fried Chicken

FAVORITE FAST FOOD:

What are you, deaf, idiot? I said Southern Fried Chicken!

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:

Foreign objects are a king's best friend!

FAVORITE ACTOR:

Robert DeNiro

FAVORITE ACTRESS:

Goldie Hawn

FAVORITE MOVIE:

Life With Mickey—the director was smart enough to get the King for a role in it!

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:

Any Sony Playstation Game!

SECRET TALENT:

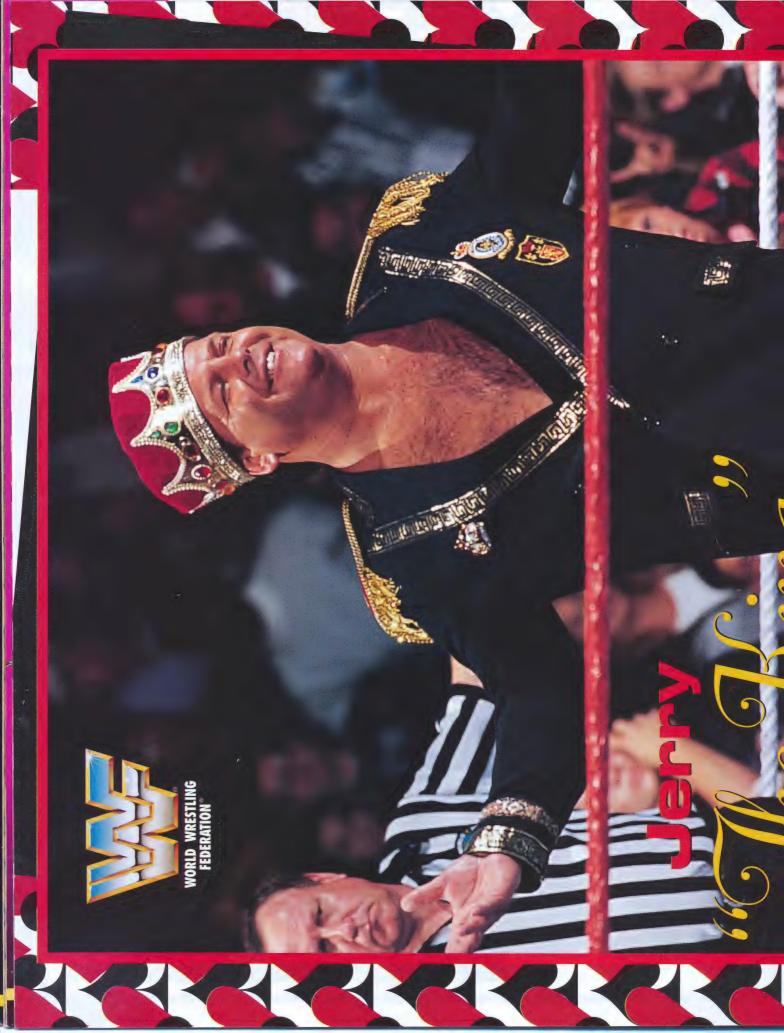
I can sing my royal butt off!

FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER:

Homer Simpson—a true ruler of his household!

IF I COULD HAVE DONE







WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

THE HOTTEST PLACE IN CYBERSPACE!





One Call

.se hours ·3.0 software

main screen



From the main screen you can access any of these great features that the Federation site has to offer!

bodyslammin gallery



Download photos, listen to audio clips, watch full-motion video clips and much, much more!

PLUSII

If some stammin' shoppin's other cool stuff beyond the pages superstar stats mat rap

CALL 1-800-44

When you need it really bad, Pick up the phone...



24 Hours a Day • \$1.49 Per Minute • 7 Days a Week

In Canada 1-900-451-3332 \$1.98 Per Minute United Kingdom 0891-299-888 39p per minute, cheap rate / 49p per minute, all other times

MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR HAVE PARENT'S PERMISSION BEFORE GALLING

GREAT OPTIONS WHEN YOU GALL!

World Wrestling Federation Trivia

Answer six consecutive Federation trivia questions correctly and win a prize!

Daily Superstar Interview

Ray Rougeau interviews a different Federation Superstar every day!

Federation Adventure Game

Take a World Wrestling Federation adventure and try to win a prize!

Crowin' With Cornette

The gospel according to the walking blue light special... or so he would want you to believe!

ederation Challenge Game

Take on a Federation Superstar. If you emerge victorious, you'll win

The Ross Report

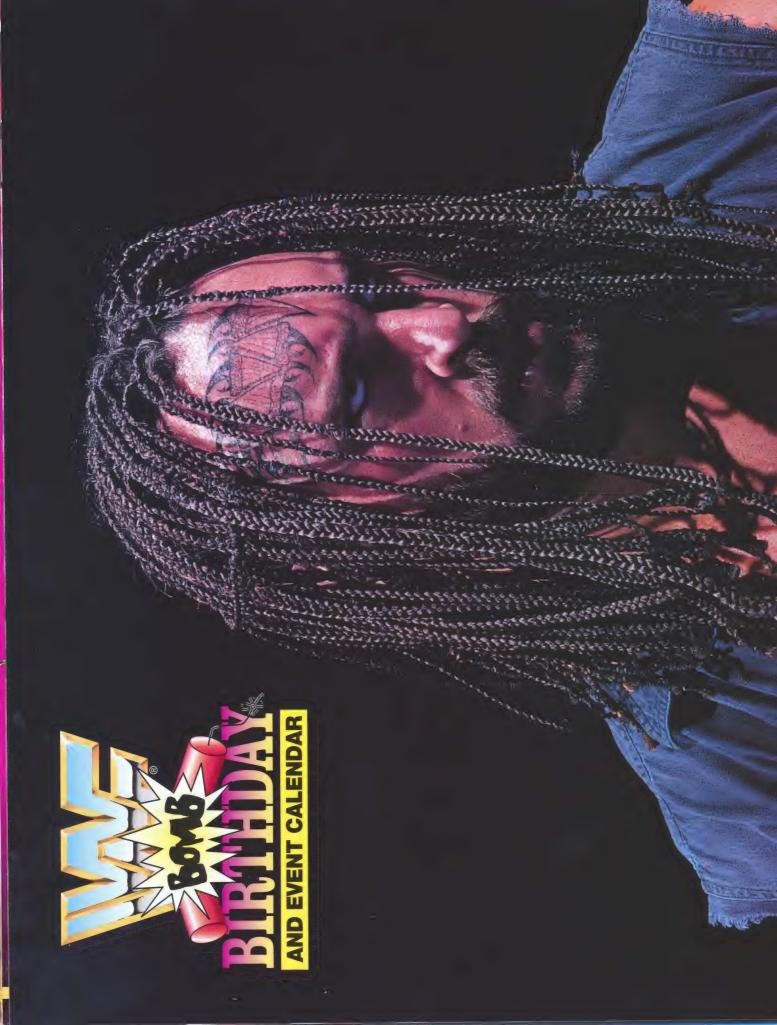
Jim Ross has all the news and behind the scenes info on Federation happenings!

French/Canadian Report with Ray Rougeau

The latest Federation news from the Great White North!

Post Match Interviews

During every Federation pay-per-view event, hear comments from the winners and losers of the matches that take place!



The state of the s						
	~	-	60 .	15	22	
>	-		h	14	21	28
A	_		9	5	20	27
5	_		ro.	12	61	26
&	_		4	=	18 Ray Rougeau's Birthday	25
u			Marty Jannetty's Birthday	0	17	24
	~		6	٥	16 VOUR HOUSE	23
	~	4	=	8	75	
		m	01	17	24	
	_	a	0	T6 RAZOR RAMON'S BIRTHDAY	23	30
2	=		BUSH- WACKER LUKE'S BIRTHDAY	15	22	BOB "SPARK PLUGG" HOLLY"S BIRTHDAY
			_	41	21	78
B						
Z	~		vo	13	20	27

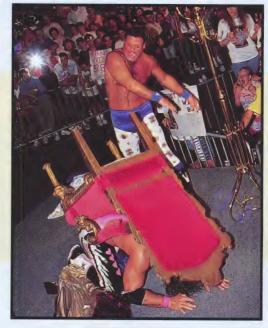
AVAILABLE AT NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE!

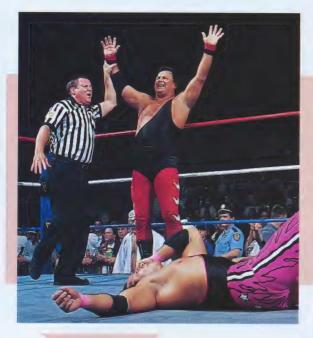




CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

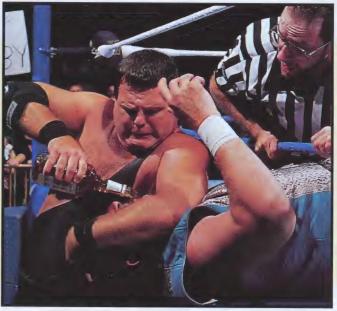
Weeks before the 1993 King of the Ring tournament was to start, Jerry Lawler proclaimed that he would allow NO MAN—friend or foe—to steal the title of "King" away from him in the World Wrestling Federation! True to his word, just moments after Bret "Hit Man" Hart was awarded the cape and crown, Lawler stepped up to the throne to take a swing. While the Hit Man's back was turned, Lawler blindsided him, tearing the royal garments off the tournament winner's back and smashing the ceremonial throne down on his prone body.





At the premier In Your House in May 1995, Jerry Lawler—with the help of Hakushi—defeated Bret "Hit Man" Hart in front of a world-wide Pay-Per-View audience! Throughout the contest, the Hit Man was solidly in control, knocking Lawler's royal butt all over the ring. Just as the pink and black was about to finish off his majestic nemesis, the White Angel came flying off the top onto the back of Hart's head. Lawler had little trouble rolling up the Hit Man for the victory after this travesty of justice!

At the 1996 SummerSlam spectacular, Jerry "The King" Lawler not only enraged the audience in Cleveland by wearing a Baltimore Ravens jersey to the ring, but he also managed to raise the ire of Jake "The Snake" Roberts more than most thought humanly possible! During his match with Roberts, Lawler broke every rule in the book, relying on vicious taunts and foreign objects to get the upper hand. After distracting the referee so he could ram a whiskey bottle into Jake's mouth, Jerry plundered another victory for his "kingdom"!



THEY RE COMING!!!



WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

Find out more in future issues of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine!!!





PHILIP LAFON,
DOUG FURNAS,
HENRY &
PHINEAS GODWINN
VS.
BRITISH BULLDOG,
OWEN HART,
LEIF CASSIDY &
MARTY JANNETTY

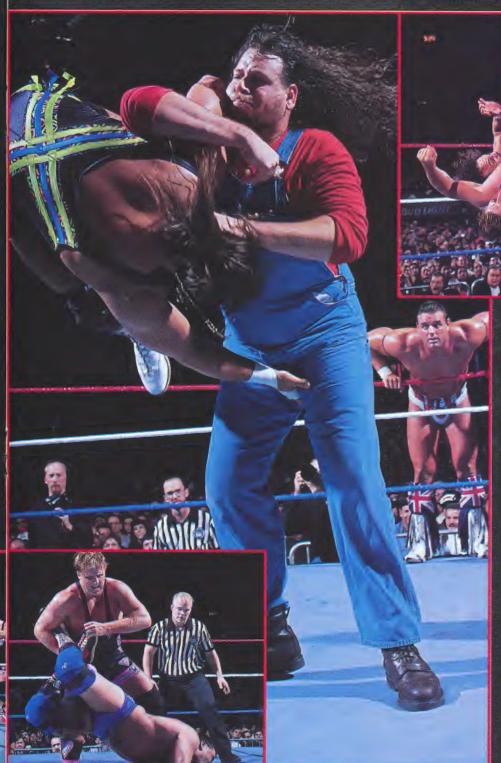
In this special Survivor Series rules match—in which the victorious team successfully eliminates every competitor on the rival squad—the Godwinns' quartet took the early lead when Henry O. Godwinn (aka HOG) vanquished Marty Jannetty with a Slopdrop. But as Godwinn was rising from the mat, Owen Hart—the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Co-titlist, with the British Bulldog—zapped him with a flying sidekick and got a pinfall to even the odds.

The British Bulldog put his team in the lead by pinning Phineas I. Godwinn—better known as PIG—after a powerslam. It wasn't long, however, before LaFon—an international superstar making his debut in the World Wrestling Federation—with partner Furnas, propped Cassidy on the turnbuckles, faced the crowd, took him to the mat with a spectacular suplex variation and tied him up for the three-count.

What followed was a dazzling matchup between two of the most gifted duos in the sport of kings—

Owen and the Bulldog versus Furnas and LaFon. LaFon proved that he belongs in the rough and tumble world of the Federation by ducking under a double clothesline attempt by his foes and catching the Bulldog in a crucifix. Swinging his body around, LaFon grabbed Bulldog's legs and rolled him onto the canvas for a three-count.

Owen tried salvaging the match for his team, but the rookies' momentum was too powerful to extinguish. LaFon survived a Sharpshooter attempt and tried taking down Hart with a kick. Owen grabbed the leg, but LaFon propelled himself off the mat and nailed his rival with a boot to his face. With Owen still



smarting from the force of the blow, Furnas caught him in a reverse suplex. Just before his opponent was about to make impact with the mat, Furnas deliberately released him. Owen's head crashed into the canvas and Furnas quickly pinned the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champion.



Doug Furnas:
"It was a pleasure to have competed in Madison Square Garden. I thought long and hard about Owen Hart and the British Bulldog before the match because they are the best in the world. It was thrilling to walk into the ring, and it was that much more thrilling to walk out after we got the win."

Philip LaFon:
"To win in front of these fans at Survivor Series was a great thrill for me. They say you haven't made it in this sport until you've faced the best, and tonight we beat Owen and the Bulldog—so I guess we finally made it! This is only the beginning for me and Doug."



THE UNDERTAKER VS. MANKIND

Mankind's manager and the Undertaker's former advisor—Paul Bearer—was suspended from a cage over New York City's Madison Square Garden to eliminate any possibility of interference. Before the start of the match, Undertaker—clad in a new black leather costume—actually chased Bearer into the metal pen. The manager locked himself in to avoid a beating by his former protege!

The two competitors brawled in the audience. Mankind charged at the Undertaker, who bent down and backflipped his opponent over the guardrail to the ringside area. Then Mankind hurled himself—like a cannonball—off the

apron onto his enemy.

Between the ropes, Mankind managed to apply his deadly Mandible Claw, but Undertaker fought free by tossing his opponent out of the ring. Returning to the squared circle, Undertaker tried a chokeslam, but was trapped in the Mandible Claw again. Incredibly, Undertaker broke free, and finally got to punish his opponent with the chokeslam.

Feeling the match slipping away from him, Mankind battered the Undertaker with a foreign object. The World Wrestling Federation's resident Reaper recovered quickly, surprised Mankind with a Tombstone piledriver and got the pin.

Bearer's cage was slowly low-



MMM And receive bodyslammin' Federation **TRADING CARDS** in every issue. These cards will only be available in subscriber copies. **ACT NOW TO COLLECT THEM ALL!** See page 24 for subscription cards.

STEVE AUSTIN







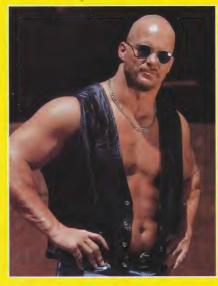
NITH FRIENDS LIKE THIS...



THE STONE COLD KING!



STEVE AUST





STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN – Austin 3:16 says... I'm gonna kick your #@%!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

the 1996 King of the Ring tournament, Steve Austin bulldozed through Marc Mero

and Jake Roberts to win the title of "Stone Cold King" in the World Wrestling Federation. During his match with the Wildman, Austin had his lip busted wide open—but it still didn't stop him from winning! At the coronation, in which he tossed aside the cape and crown,

stered trademark of Titan Sports, Inc. Trademark of Titan

AUSTIN 3:16 was born!

G

67

or proclaiming Bret Hart "the best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be", during an interview with Steve Austin, Brian Pillman paid a heavy price on his already injured body! Stone Cold didn't take the statement kindly from his former partner's mouth and proceeded to viciously blindside the Time Bomb-breaking his ankle into pieces! Austin later stated, "That piece of crap tried to steal my interview time!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Registered trademark of Titan Sparts, Inc. **Trademark of Titan Sparts, Inc.

6

t the 1996 Survivor Series, Steve Austin finally got a taste of what it really means to be "the best there is" when he fell to Bret "Hit Man" Hart inside Madison Square Garden. Both competitors fought a technical war that night, but the Excellence of Execution overcame the skills and brutality of the braggart Austin to make a successful return to the World Wrestling Federation. Many fans in attendance that night labeled this the "match of the decade"!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Height:

6' 2"

Weight:

252 pounds

From:

Victoria, TX

Titles Held:

1996 King of the Ring

Motto:

"That's the bottom line...

because STONE COLD SAID SO!"

Finishing Move:

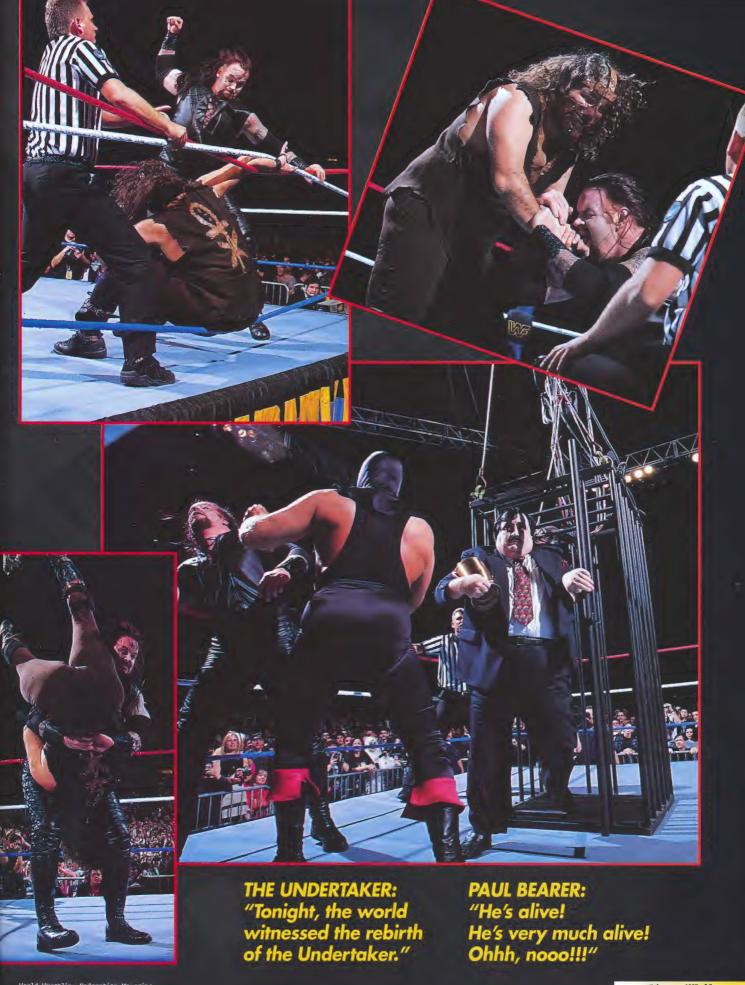
Stone Cold Stunner

Nickname:

Stone Cold

PPV Debut:

1996 Royal Rumble





MARC MERO, THE STALKER, ROCKY MAIVIA & JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS VS. HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY, GOLDUST, CRUSH & JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER

This Survivor Series match started explosively, with Mero announcing that Jake Roberts would be substituting for the injured Mark Henry. As Lawler protested, Roberts stormed down the aisle, momentarily clearing the ring by waving his snake, Revelation, at his opponents.

Roberts' longtime nemesis had good reason to be worried. As the contest heated up, Lawler was eliminated by Roberts' DDT. Minutes later, Goldust displayed his own version of the DDT—the reverse DDT—using it to send the Stalker back to the showers.

Helmsley—the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion—and the former titlist Mero used the Survivor Series setting to resume their feud. Helmsley hurled his adversary out of the ring, and Roberts stepped between the ropes to pick up the slack for his partner. While Hunter was distracted, Mero scrambled up the ropes and got rid of Helmsley with a moonsault variation.

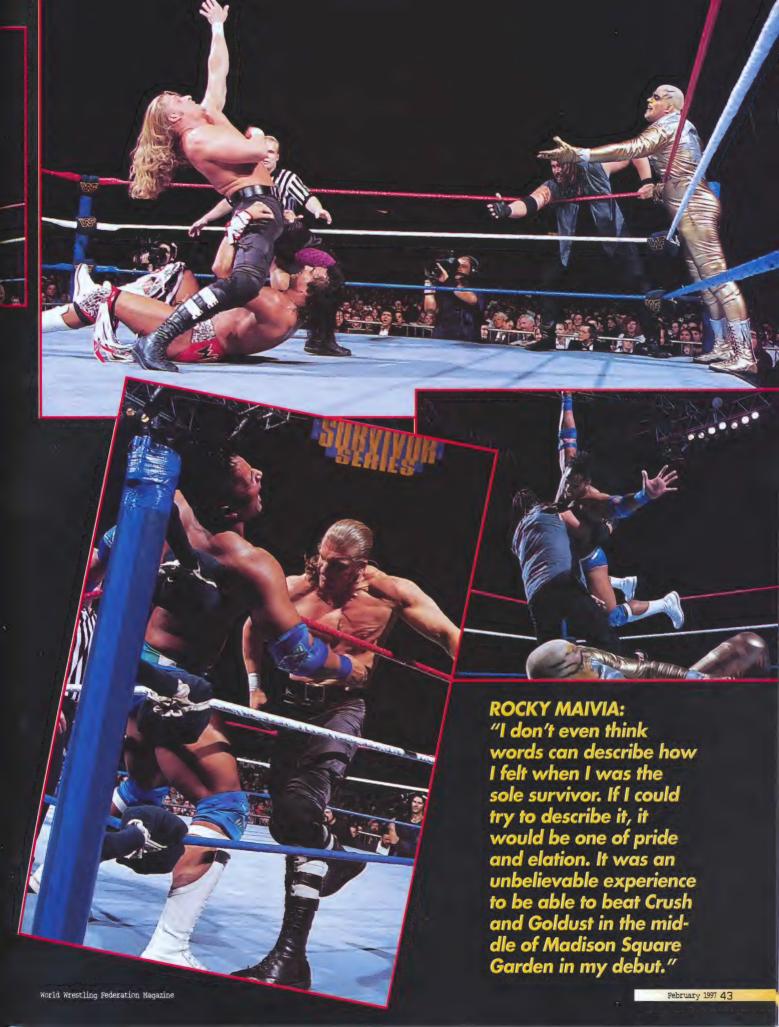
Mero was fired up—perhaps a little too much for his own good. Turning his attention to Crush, Mero tried vaulting over the ropes to splash the big Hawaiian at ringside. Goldust pulled Crush out

of harm's way and Mero collided with the arena floor where he was counted out.

Next, Crush Heartpunched Jake, eliminating him and leaving rookie Rocky Maivia—the son of former World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champion Rocky Johnson and grandson of the late top contender Peter Maivia—

alone with two dangerous foes.

Remarkably, the youngster showed that victory runs in his genes. When Goldust held him in place for a Crush Heartpunch, Maivia stepped out of the way. As Goldust took the blow, Rocky pinned Crush with a bodypress and then eliminated Goldust with a shoulder breaker.





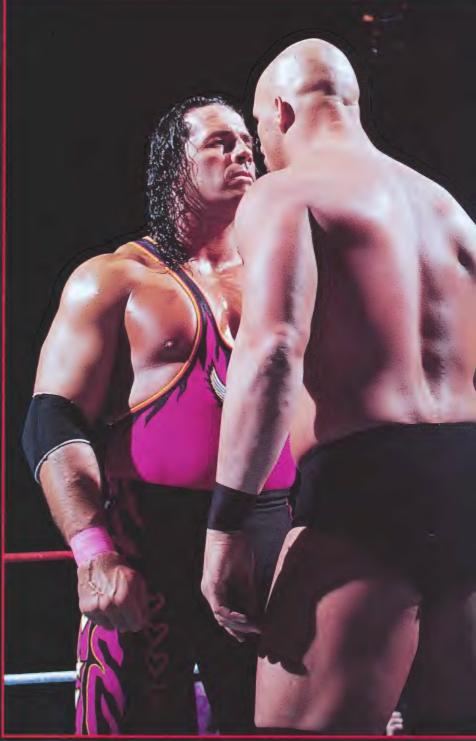
BRET "HIT MAN" HART VS. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

In his first Pay-Per-View since losing the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship at WrestleMania XII, Hart took on the man he deemed the most gifted in the mat wars—Stone Cold Steve Austin—with the winner guaranteed a shot at the gold at December's In Your House Pay-Per-View.

The two started off exhibiting their technical prowess, before Austin changed the tone by intentionally trying to harm his opponent, dropping his neck across the top strand. Bret tried firing back with fists, but Austin punched him out, leading some to speculate that Hart had grown soft during his time away from the mat.

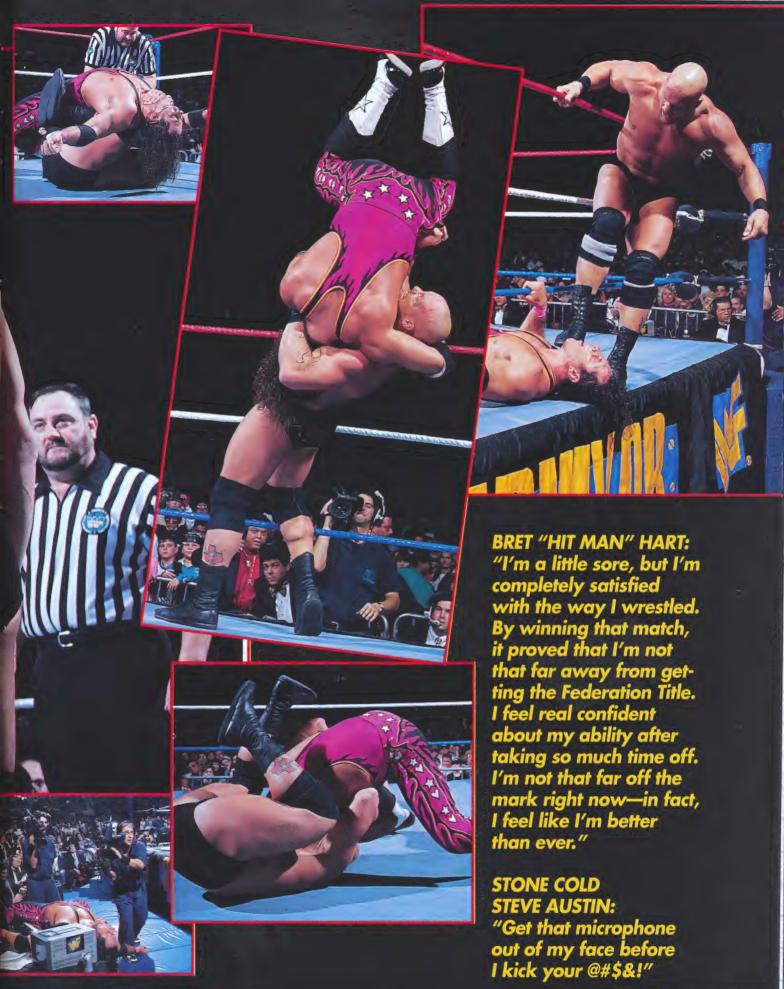
The battle spilled outside the ring, where Austin smashed Bret's lower back against the ring post. Bret rose to the occasion, knocking Austin over the security railing, pummeling him in the audience and crashing him against the guardrail. Austin responded by catapulting Hart into the Spanish language announcer's table and blasting him with fists, as the commentators cowered underneath the two grapplers. Slamming Hart onto the table again, Stone Cold lowered an elbow onto his foe from the ring apron.

Other men would have given up. Bret Hart only grew stronger in the face of adversity. He beat Austin in a battle of fists in center



ring, drove his throat into the top rope, and delivered a piledriver and backbreaker. The two battled up the turnbuckles, where Austin executed a top rope suplex and followed up with the Stone Cold Stunner.

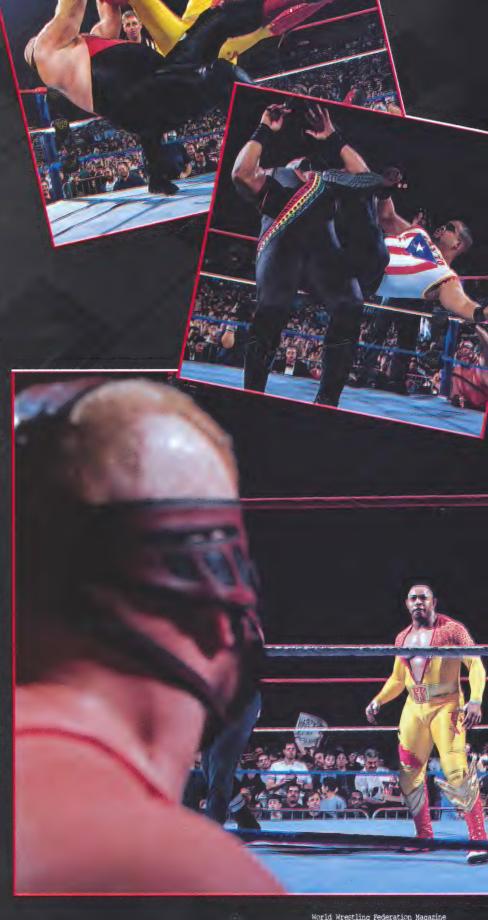
Hoping to beat Bret with his own hold, Austin tried a Sharpshooter. Hart inched toward the ropes and grabbed the bottom strand, forcing the aggressor to release the move. Stone Cold then tried the Million Dollar Dream—a deadly sleeper hold variation. Just as fans were expecting him to fade, Hart kicked off the turnbuckles, falling on top of Austin and shocking him with a pin.

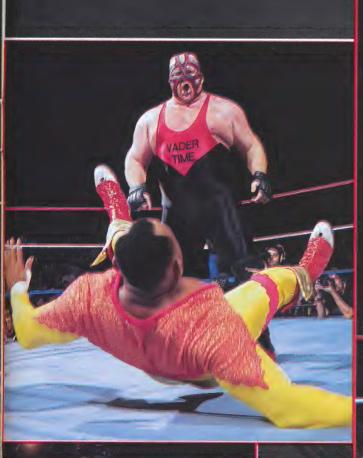




On his first night in the World Wrestling Federation, Funk established himself as a force by climbing to the top rope and moonsaulting onto Vader at ringside. Not long afterward, Vader was equally embarrassed by Snuka—who'd been inducted into the World Wrestling Federation Hall of Fame the night before and entered this match for one last taste of the spotlightwhen the highflying Fijian bodyslammed the bulky Mastodon from the Rocky Mountains.

Still, Vader's team got their revenge when Diesel jackknifed Savio and eliminated him. Snuka entered the ring, chopping and bodyslamming Ramon, then executing his famed Superfly leap from the top rope. The referee had just counted to three, when Diesel snuck up behind the Hall of Famer and cracked him with a chair. As the ring filled up with the combatants, Vega returned swinging another chair. The referee tried restoring order and when that didn't work, disqualified everybody.









JIMMY "SUPERFLY" SNUKA:

"This match in the Big Apple... it was like the ace in the hole for me. It was like coming to the World Series and the Superbowl, it's that big for the Superfly. It was a wonderful feeling to know that the fans still cared for me and loved me. When I walked through those curtains, the memories of performing in the Garden in front of a sell-out crowd all came back to me. I know what they wanted—they wanted the Superfly leap one more time."



SHAWN MICHAELS

At the opening bell, Shawn came flying at his former bodyguard, but Sid effortlessly cut him down. Shawn eventually used speed to counter his adversary's might, sliding under Sid's legs and taking him to the mat with a bodypress. The two exchanged slaps, then fists, before Sid pressed the Champ over his head and prepared to slam him. Remarkably, Shawn shifted his weight, slipped out of Sid's grasp and landed on his feet.

Michaels went to work on Sid's knee, hoping to compensate for the height difference by taking out the big man's wheels. The Champion applied a figure-four leglock, then hopped off the ropes and crashed down on the challenger's throbbing limb. But when Shawn tried to apply a leglock again, Sid kicked him-shoulder-first-into the corner

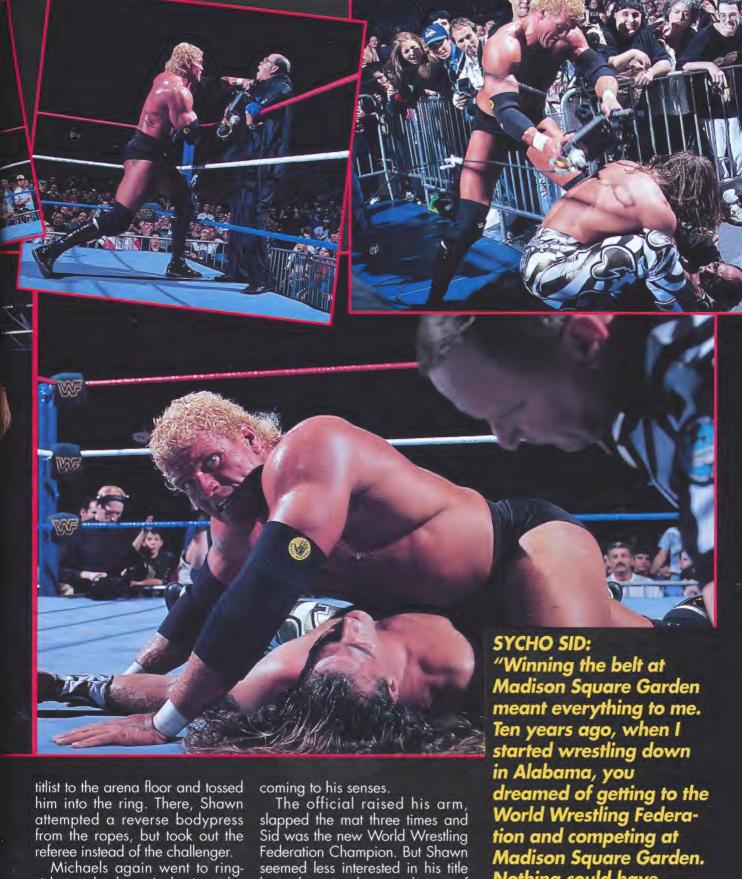
Shawn waited for another chance to open the match up again—then continued victimizing the knee, dropkicking it at one point. Enraged, Sid clotheslined Michaels out of the ring, followed him to the arena floor, pressed him over the shoulders and banged him down on the guardrail. Back in the ring, Sid slung the Champ over the turnbuckles. But when the challenger pursued the Champ to the ring apron, Shawn reached over his shoulders and dropped to the arena floor, thrusting

Sid's throat into the top rope.

Shawn climbed the turnbuckles and tried an aerial attack, but Sid caught him in midair and took the lead again. Gripping the Champion from behind, Sid attempted to apply the Million Dollar Dream employed earlier in the night by Stone Cold Steve Austin. Shawn burst free and tried a sidekick. Sid grabbed the leg, delivered a chokeslam and positioned Shawn

for a Powerbomb. Michaels reached down and cradled his opponent for a nearfall, then wobbled the challenger with a bodypress.

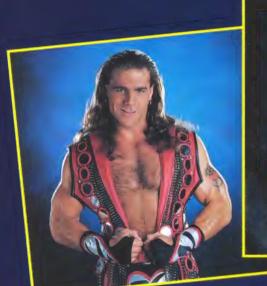
Out of nowhere, Sid grabbed a camera from a ringside shooter, and KOed the Champion's manager, Jose Lothario, with the object. Shawn floored his foe with a sidekick, then tended to the advisor at ringside. Sid followed the

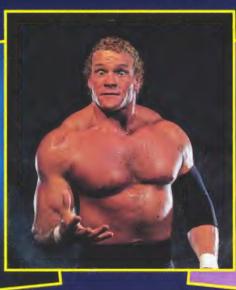


side to check on Lothario, who still lay stiff on the arena floor. Sid now zapped the Champion with the camera, rolled him into the ring and executed a Powerbomb, just as the referee was loss than in the condition of Lothario. As Sid showed off his belt to the stunned audience, Michaels raced after the paramedics taking the manager back to the locker room.

Nothing could have meant more to me than beating Shawn Michaels for the Federation Title in that arena."









WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION TITLE MATCH

SYCHO SID/ BRET "HIT MAN" HART

SHAWN MICHAELS

At the 1996 Survivor Series, the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels had the World Wrestling Federation Title ripped away from his waist in one of the most controversial matches in Federation history. He had lived his boyhood dream up until that point, but as Jose Lothario lay on the concrete floor grasping his chest, dreams were the last thing on the young lion's mind. By concentrating Shawn's attention on his fallen mentor—who was victimized by the challenger just minutes before—Sycho Sid was able to walk out of Madison

Square Garden that night with the Federation Title in his hands.

Just a day after the event, Shawn traveled to Texas to be by his trainer's side. Jose was placed in the care of a San Antonio hospital, and the Heartbreak Kid wanted to make sure everything was up to par with his teacher. While Shawn was in the Lone Star State, Bret Hart was already putting his John Hancock to meet





Sycho Sid for the Federation Title at December's *In Your House*. By beating Stone Cold Steve Austin at the *Survivor Series*, the Hit Man had locked up a match against the monstrous Sid on December 15.

Whomever walked out of West Palm Beach, Florida, with the Federation gold is going to have a large task in front of him with only a few short weeks to prepare for the match. Michaels will be competing in front of an estimated crowd of 70,000 San Antonio, Texas, natives at the Alamodome on January 19 for his much anticipated rematch. However, in the back of Shawn's mind there is a more important issue at stake. You see, this will be the final time that Jose Lothario—the man Michaels considers his second father will stand by the Heartbreak Kid. "Super Sock" has announced he will retire after the venture in the Alamodome, so this is the last time Michaels can hear Jose in his corner cheering him on.

On January 19 in San Antonio, Shawn Michaels will not only try to win back the World Wrestling Federation Title from either Sycho Sid or Bret "Hit Man" Hart in front of a hometown crowd, but he will also be saying "Thank You" to the man who guided him during his illustrious career—"Super Sock" Jose Lothario.

THE UNDERTAKER VS. VADER

The fans have wanted it for months—two of the biggest monsters in the game facing off in the ring. Finally, by a twist of fate, that match will arrive at the 1997 Royal Rumble when the man from the Dark Side, the Undertaker, will battle Vader in front of 70,000 screaming Creatures of the Night in San Antonio's Alamodome.

Prior to signing the match with the Rocky Mountain Monster, the Undertaker returned at the 1996 Survivor Series after a brief dirtnap to take care of some unsettled business with the deranged Mankind. After hovering down from the rafters of Madison Square Garden that night, the Undertaker defeated Mankind with the Tombstone Piledriver for the win. Fans in attendance and the millions watching on Pay-Per-View were witness to the birth of a new Undertaker—a spirit who was noticeably more vicious and aggressive than he had ever been during his Federation career. To put it simply, he's stronger than ever!

Now, at the Royal Rumble, an even bigger challenge lies ahead for the phenom of the World Wrestling Federation. The man they call Vader is huffing and puffing, and he wants to blow the Demon's graveyard down. Ever since SummerSlam, Vader has suffered a series of setbacks. First, at October's In Your House, Vader lost a chance at the Federation Title when he was choked down by Sycho Sid. Then, at the 1996 Survivor Series, the big man failed to rise to the top when his entire team lost in a double disqualification decision.

Now, the chance for Vader to correct those setbacks and to shoot back up the ladder in the Federation is at hand—courtesy of his match with the Undertaker at the Royal Rumble. The phenom may have faced his share of big men in his career—such as Giant Gonzalez, King Kong Bundy and Kamala—but without a shadow of a doubt, Vader is the king of the big men. The Rocky Mountain giant is feared for the one thing other 400-pounders could only dream of doing—a top rope Moonsault. Gorilla Monsoon may have said the phrase hundreds of times, but when the lights go out in the Alamodome on January 19 and the bells start to toll, the immovable force will truly meet the irresistible object in the middle of the ring.



AHMED JOHNSON VS. FAAROOQ

Some things in life are well worth the wait. Wine connoisseurs sometimes wait years for the perfect blend of grapes to age properly. On the other hand, actors often go a lifetime waiting to break into the land of Hollywood. Finally, on January 19, the long-awaited chance for Ahmed Johnson to get his hands on Faarooq will come to pass in San Antonio, Texas.

In July of 1996, the World Wrestling Federation got its first sight of the man known as Faarooq when he brutally attacked Ahmed on Monday Night RAW. The Pearl River Powerhouse's kidney was severely injured, forcing Federation officials to strip him of the Intercontinental Title he had worked so hard to

capture just a month before at the King of the Ring. Ahmed was forced to sit out almost five months while his belt was put up for grabs in a tournament on national television.

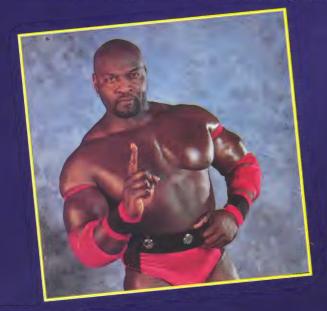
Faaroog, on the other hand, was ripping a path of destruction in the Federation. Shortly before the 1996 Survivor Series, Faaroog aligned himself with the sly Clarence Mason and adopted the ideology of the Nation of Domination. The N.O.D. are going to fight for what they believe in... and they are going to enforce that belief with their own brand of justice. During the Survivor Series event, Faaroog debuted his entourage, complete with Mason and two N.O.D. members to guard him while he walks to the ring. Some see the Nation of Domination as bullies... Faaroog sees them as an "insurance policy" during his ring wars.

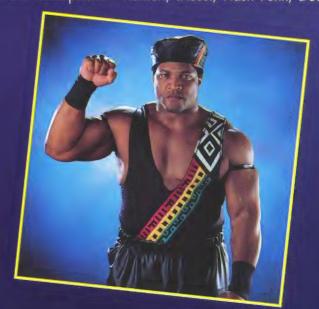
However, on Monday Night RAW the day after the Survivor Series, Ahmed Johnson paid a visit to the arena during Faarooq's match. Just as Faarooq was about to have his Nation of Domination members attack Savio Vega, Ahmed stormed the ring and cleared house with a two-byfour... sending the N.O.D. high-tailing back to the locker room. Ahmed grabbed the microphone

and announced that he was back, and this time Faarooq would be the one going down. Ahmed will finally get that long-awaited shot for revenge at the 1997 Royal Rumble in San Antonio—and now Faarooq had better have the Nation watch HIS back!

THE 1997 ROYAL RUMBLE

This year, all roads will lead to San Antonio when the World Wrestling Federation brings the January over-the-top Battle Royal spectacular to the famous 70,000-seat indoor arena. As always, challengers from all over the world will step foot into the ring for a chance to meet the Champion at WrestleMania XIII. Included in the 30-man field will be the high-flying superstars from the AAA organization out of Mexico. During the Royal Rumble press conference held this past November, Antonio Pena (promoter for AAA) introduced to various media corps the participants he will send to the Rumble. Federation superstars also expected to be a part of this stellar match include: Bret Hart or Sycho Sid (whomever is not the Federation Champion at the time), Undertaker, Mankind, the Executioner, Goldust, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Crush, Razor Ramon, Diesel, Flash Funk, Doug





FEDERATION PA NEWCOMERS T

Are They Making The Grade?

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

an opponent a chance to get his bearings. Everything is a fight against the boards. Whether he's in the rink or on the mat, the Goon qualifies as one of the most aggressive men in the building.

FORTITUDE:

Athletes who have played a multitude of sports have described hockey as the most difficult. It takes heart and endurance. The Goon possesses these qualities. If they are applied to the mat wars, he could turn into a respectable competitor.

INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

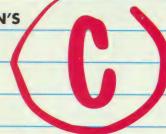
An inexperienced opponent would be frightened by the Goon. Men like Mr. Perfect and Bret Hartwho grew up playing hockey and who are rulers of the ring-might be amused or annoyed by the Goon's posturing, but they wouldn't be scared.

OUTLOOK:

The Goon has to learn about wrestling before he establishes any track record of success. He needs to learn that what applies in hockey doesn't necessarily apply in the World Wrestling Federation. Until he digests that lesson, he'll never belong in the same locker room as the noble aladiators who have dedicated their lives to the sport of kings.

THE GOON'S **OVERALL**

GRADE:





THE GOON

FINISHER:

The Goon was banned from professional hockey because of his propensity for fighting. He conducts a wrestling match as if it were a hockey gamescoring a win by disabling his opponent with a crosscheck at ringside and then climbing into the ring to beat the referee's count. The tactic might serve its purpose, but it's not a wrestling move.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

The Goon has surprised matwatchers by executing suplexes and other wrestling moves. In time, he may learn more. But right now, he's a hockey brawler, not a wrestler.

POWER:



The Goon relies too strongly on hockey tricks, not muscle. While he certainly can throw his weight around, he's never studied the art of utilizing his strength in the squared circle.

AGGRESSIVENESS



Trip, slash, body check—this is the Goon's mantra. He never shakes a hand before a match or gives



THE GRIMM TWINS

FINISHER:

The Grimms are twins. They think alike and immediately know when the other needs help. They've yet to find a signature move with their name on it. They've nonetheless been successful enough at brute strength and teamwork maneuvers to earn this relatively high grade.

TECHNICAL PROWESS

Before they ever darkened the aisle leading to the ring, the Grimms had their repertoire figured out to the smallest detail. They're tough and strong, but they understand the fine points of wrestling in general and tag team wrestling in particular.

POWER:

These are two very rough men, who employ their strength in tandem. Thus, a wrestler facing off against one Grimm twin often ends up being victimized by both—via a double clothesline, simultaneously applied slam or another power move.

AGGRESSIVENESS

Once again, Jason and Jared Grimm take the "two-for-the-price-of-one" approach, flying at a foe at the same time. The strategy has instilled a good deal of confidence in the Grimms, and they are not afraid to make the first move on more experienced squads. The only question is: How brave would one of the brothers be if another team cornered him alone?

FORTITUDE:

They're relatively untested, but the Grimms have

never once shown any weakness of spirit. Even when losing, they've gone down battling and vowing to get the upper hand in the next altercation. And several times they've lived up to their pledges.

INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

This is one intimidating team. For one thing, the Grimms look so much alike that an opponent doesn't know which man is in the ring. And because the Grimms enjoy rushing foes as a unit, rivals are constantly worried about being double-teamed.

OUTLOOK:

The Grimms are probably a year or so away from serious title contention. Right now, they appear to be cultivating their talents—talents that seem to grow with each match. If they continue at this pace, they are more than likely to join combos like the Smoking Gunns, the Godwinns, and Owen Hart and British Bulldog at the top of the tag team ranks.

THE GRIMMS **OVERALL** GRADE:

MARK HENRY

FINISHER:

Henry is the world's strongest man. As a result, his backbreaker is the most powerful in the history of the mat wars. When he turns a man upside down and drapes him over a shoulder, submission is the

only option.

Big, strong men have been stereotyped as muscleheads, unable to fathom the scientifics of the grappling game. Henry may prove to be the exception. He's been in intensive training and plans to wrestle just as well as smaller, more agile athletes. Until he achieves that goal, however, we have to cast a dubious eye.

TECHNICAL PROWESS

POWER:
As previously mentioned, Henry is the world's strongest man. No wrestler has ever been as mighty. If he was to rely on strength alone, he could probably achieve main event status.

AGGRESSIVENESS

Henry personifies determination. He's a former Olympian and knows how to rise to the occasion. He's also a very nice guy and he will have to develop a hard shell so that he's not taken advantage of.

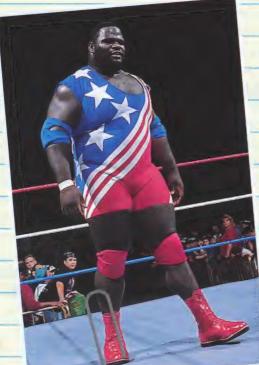
FORTITUDE:

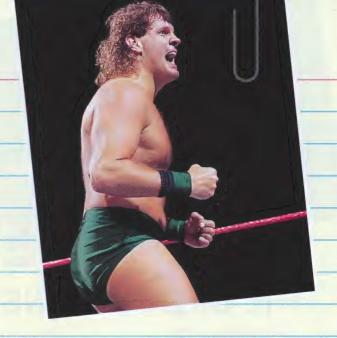
His will took Mark Henry all the way to the 1996 Olympics. Now he is training just as hard to make it in the World Wrestling Federation. Already, he has defeated Jerry "The King" Lawler and embarrassed Hunter Hearst-Helmsley. With Olympian vigor, he is sure to take his new career to great heights. INTIMIDATION FACTOR—A: All an opponent has to do is look at Mark Henry to have a panic attack. The man is so big, locking up with him seems equivalent to scaling Mount Everest. Jerry "The King" Lawler already angered Henry once, and dearly paid for it. Very few wrestlers are anxious to make the same mistake.

OUTLOOK:

Henry is a patient man. He didn't become an Olympian overnight and he doesn't expect to be a champion by the end of the year. Henry plans to train—slowly and thoughtfully—to tackle his goal. With such an intelligent strategy, it's difficult to imagine him failing.

MARK HENRY'S OVERALL GRADE:





FREDDIE JOE FLOYD

FINISHER:

More than any individual maneuver, Floyd has gained a reputation for his incredible ability to rebound from adversity. Even when he's being pummeled by a more experienced opponent, he's always sharp and looking for an opening. Not long ago, he found that opening against Justin "Hawk" Bradshaw, scoring an upset win.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

Floyd seems like a simple country boy. However, many former opponents suspect that's all an act. The rookie is a very savvy wrestler, known for wearing down foes with classic mat tactics.

POWER:

This is the one gaping hole in Floyd's arsenal. While he has a keen understanding of what it takes to win, he has generally been stampeded against opponents more reliant on power moves. The exception, of course, was Bradshaw.

AGGRESSIVENESS:

An easy-going man away from the arena, Floyd doesn't mind taking the initiative in a match and he frequently does. When Floyd gets an early lead, he's likely to remain ahead. But when his opponent surges, Floyd falls back on defense—sometimes emerging victorious and sometimes succumbing to defeat.

FORTITUDE:

Floyd has no shortage of this quality. He can withstand vicious poundings, refusing to say uncle. If titles were won on fortitude, Floyd would be World Wrestling Federation Champion today.

INTIMIDATION

Floyd's stunning win against Bradshaw created a certain aura about him. Many other wrestlers began to look at him as a kind of "comeback kid", who could reverse the tide of a match within seconds. It didn't terrify opponents, but it made them wary.

OUTLOOK:

Floyd is a solid mid-card wrestler right now. His defeat of Bradshaw garnered him some accolades, but he must work extra hard to fight his way up the rookie ranks and into the realm of superstars.

FREDDIE JOE FLOYD'S **OVERALL** GRADE:

"WILDMAN MARC MERO

FINISHER:

Mero has experienced success in a number of ways—the sunset flip, catapulting over the ropes onto opponents; knocking out wrestlers with powerful fists; and the "Wild Thing", a spectacular somersault over the ropes into a body press. Regardless of the finisher, Mero almost always ends up toppling his opponent.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

Mero is an ardent student of the mat wars. It would be his dream to go hold-for-hold with an opponent, while never bending the rules. But since this is the unpredictable 90s, Mero not only bends the stipulations when provoked—he does it with style.

POWER:

Mero knows he doesn't have the might of Faaroog or Vader. Yet he understands how to take his strength to the extreme. A skilled boxer, the Wildman has KOed many an unruly adversary—a ma-



neuver just as effective as boosting up the man and hurling him into the balcony.

AGGRESSIVENESS:

Interestingly, Mero's valet Sable has made him a more daring wrestler. Inspired by her presence in his corner, he attacks his matches with greater verve, knowing that she is cheering him on. With Sable fueling him, he recently won the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Title.

FORTITUDE:

Mero is a courageous athlete who has no aversion to mixing it up with much larger men. Many times he is momentarily overpowered, but he finds the vitality within himself to triumph. It is his fortitude that propelled Mero to the Federation and keeps him on the winning path.

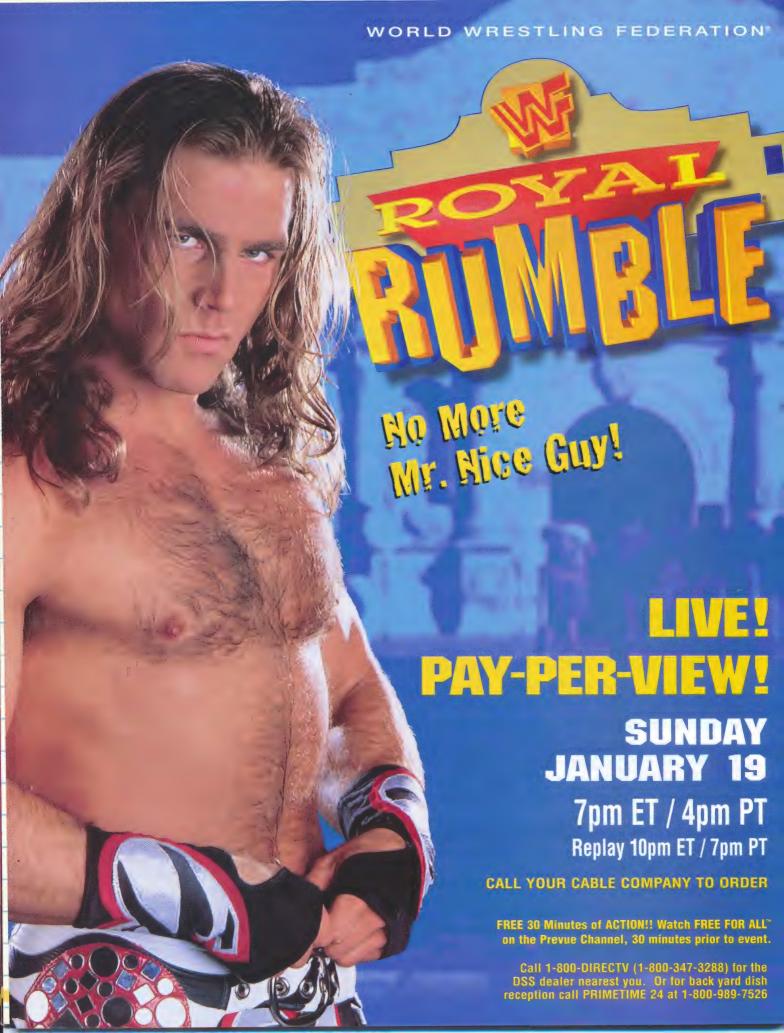
INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

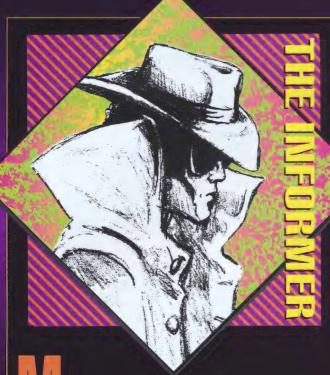
Despite Mero's expansive attributes, his better-known foes are rarely intimidated by him. Much of this has to do with Sable, who is viewed as the Wildman's "Achilles heel". Everyone knows that Mero cares a great deal about his valet and can easily be distracted when she seems to be in danger.

OUTLOOK:

Like Faaroog, Mero entered the World Wrestling Federation with a sizable amount of ring experience. Others with comparable seasoning have tried making it here before and failed, however. The former Federation Intercontinental Champion Marc Mero rates as this year's most successful rookie.

MARC MERO'S OVERALL GRADE:





y lead story this month revolves around the BRITISH BULLDOG, DAVEY BOY SMITH. Now as you all know, a few weeks ago on MONDAY NIGHT RAW, THE BULLDOG and his brother-in-law and tag team partner OWEN HART got into a mild disagreement concerning STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN and "should he or shouldn't he" hit BRET "HIT MAN" HART with a steel chair following OWEN's match against his older brother. As it turns out, OWEN said YES, but the BULLDOG stopped AUSTIN in his tracks... only to take the same steel chair across his back moments later. Following the incident, all seemed to go back to normal for the Federation Tag Team Champions... SUPPOSEDLY!!! My informants have informed me. the INFORMER, that all may not be what it seems! As a matter of fact, they went so far as to tell me that they have—ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS—seen— WITH THEIR OWN EYES—the BULLDOG and BRET socially fraternizing! Now keep in mind, it was a few months ago in the RAW MAGAZINE when I, the IN-FORMER, informed you about the rumor that BRET HART had run to the aid of his sister DIANA—who just happens to be the BULLDOG's wife-when she accused SHAWN MICHAELS of making a play for her back in the summer!!! Is it possible that the HIT MAN and the BULLDOG have buried the hatchet... possibly without young OWEN knowing?! Stay tuned for the second installment of "AS THE HARTS TURN!"... The NATION OF DOMINATION is truly on a roll! CLARENCE MASON is actively out recruiting new members-AS I TYPE! One rumor even had an "old friend" of FAAROOQ's possibly joining the righteous party!!! At this point, all I can tell you is that if this particular rumor does indeed prove true... we could all be DOOMED!... I told you that UNCLE PAUL's family would continue to grow... AND I WASN'T WRONG!!!... Rumor has it that HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY may be looking for a bodyguard to protect him from the "evils" of the World Wrestling Federation. No, I'm not going to be RUDE. I'm going to tell you that it could be one of two people, with I, the INFORMER, betting my string of polo ponies on... CRUSH!... No, I would not be surprised to see an ex-Federation Champion AND Intercontinental Champion return to the World Wrestling Federation... Federation newcomer ROCKY MAIVIA just may be smitten! Sources tell me that SUNNY has been wooing the young sensation on what she insists is a "purely professional level" and that the rookie just may be ready, willing and able to do business with her. What kind of business, you ask? Well, that still remains a mystery!... Recently, SHAWN MICHAELS had a few matches scheduled where he was to see tag team action with none other than BRET "HIT MAN" HART in his corner. When I asked Shawn to comment on this "uncomfortable" situation, all he said was, "It's tag team action." What that means is that four men will start... and only one man will finish!"... I wouldn't be surprised to see GOLDUST go back in the closet... and come out as SOMEBODY ELSE!!!... Until next



time... this has been... THE INFORMER. WF

BARRED FROM THE BACK



60 February 1997

DEAR PHINEAS,

As a little boy growing up on the farm, did you always want to be a wrestler? Etta Reeves

Newburgh, NY

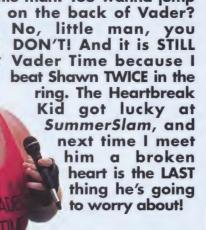
Ya' know, now that you mention it, I guess I have kinda grown up from a wee sprout, haven't I? To be honest, I never did quite think about rasslin' while I was on Ma and Pa's farm in Bitters. I spent WAY too much time watchin' that Green Acres show on TV! Man, that pig was sumthin' funny!



You are always saying "It's Vader Time" and "Who's the Man?" whenever I see you wrestle! Don't you ever get tired of grunting that? Actually, I think it would be better for you to say "It's HBK Time" and "Shawn's the Man" since he BEAT you at SummerSlam!

John Prussak Wellington, Ohio

The only thing I get tired of is smart questions from PUNKS like you, little man! You wanna jump





DEAR PAUL BEARER,

Is there any other weirdo you plan on bringing to the World Wrestling Federation to join forces with Mankind and Goldust?

> Sam Olivia Fort Myers, FL

Ohhh yesssss, Sam, you had better bet your life on it! The forces that brought Mankind and Goldust together were only the beginning, as I have a whole mortuary FULL of prospects who will destroy YOUR Undertaker! After that, I think I'll buy a **BRAND-NEW funeral parlor with** all my money... OHH YESSSS!

DEAR UNDERTAKER,

Since Paul Bearer turned on you, have you ever thought about getting a new manager to guide you and the Creatures of the Night? Melissa Merkel Oakhurst, NJ

The pale-faced maggot named Paul Bearer is no longer a part of the Creatures of the Night, Melissa. The Grim Reaper needs only the guidance of his fans to walk the realm of the World Wrestling Federation... a realm that will soon be filled with the mass burials of all who step in my way.

Rest in Peace...

WRESTLING

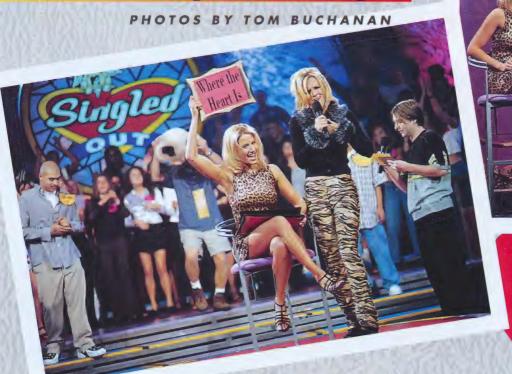
SPOTLIGHT

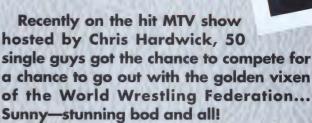
SICHO SID:

ner Eight nanets For That Matter



private eye





Unfortunately, besides Sunny, "Chicken Wings" were on hand—and we're not talking hot and spicy, folks! Former Federation Champion Mr. Bob Backlund joined Ms. Delight on the set and he just couldn't keep his hands to himself! Hardwick, stage hands and even the giant diaper-wearing cherub mascot of the show got to feel the effects of Bob's

ust imagine for a moment that you are entering the winners' circle on MTV's Singled Out. You have just completed three rounds of embarrassment and humiliation to conquer 50 other men in their bid to date the dream girl you have waited your entire life to find. The hosts put you back-to-back with the "babe" of your dreams. You can feel her shapely curves, her long hair and in just a moment, you will be facing her! You turn around, open your eyes and SUNNY is in front of you!!!

You can wake up now and KEEP READ-ING, because it ain't happenin', chief!



World Wrestling Federation Magazine February 1997 63

ARTIST HOWARD M. COLBERT WRITER VINCE RUSSO SQUARED CIRCLE SUPERHERO





ORDER YOUR VIDEOS TODAY!	VISIT COLISEUM VIDEO 'S WEB SITE TODAY: http://www.WWFGOLVID.com
Please sendcopies ofcopies of	Check* Money Order Visa MasterCard Discover Card
Canadian pricing: U.S. \$39.95 Can. \$59.95 (VHS only!)	Credit Card Number
Name	Signature Exp. Date
AddressApt. #	Credit card orders cannot be processed without your signature and expiration date. Makes checks' payable to: A' & H VIDEO SALES P.O. Box 1311 • WEST. CALDWELL, NJ 07007-1311 * When paying by check please allow 3 • 4 weeks for delivery! PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!
CityStateZip	Total number of video cassettes Sub-total CALL: (201) 808–1818 Btwn. 9am & 5pm EST.
Phone () * Canada residents send total amount plus 7% G.S.T.; Ontario residents must include additional 8% provincial sales tax. NY residents please add applicable sales tax. We can only ship video cassettes to the U.S. and Canada. Please allow 7 - 10 days for delivery. If paying by check allow 3 - 4 weeks for delivery.	S5.00 Shipping & handling per order. NY residents please add sales tax Total enclosed OR FAX (24hrs): (201) 575-1272 TO GET YOUR ORDER IN TODAY!

